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PART XXX.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF TURKEY.

75

October 1878.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting Affairs in Turkey.

PART XXX.

No. 1.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 1.)

(No. 165.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, September* 25, 1878.

ON the 23rd instant official intelligence reached the Government of the withdrawal from Mala Zwornik and Sakhar of the Turkish garrison, and of their occupation by the Servian troops. This event cannot but be considered of political importance, as it disposes once for all of a bone of contention between Servia and the Ottoman Empire, which for the last fifteen to twenty years had made of Little Zwornik a household word amongst diplomatists in the East. It speaks well for the conciliatory disposition of Prince Milan and his Ministers that they should so long have tolerated, without remonstrance, the continued occupation of these places by the Turkish troops, in direct violation of Article XLI of the Treaty of Berlin, stipulating that within a fortnight after the exchange of the ratifications the Ottoman forces were to evacuate all the territories ceded to the Principality.

The immediate cause of the unexpected departure of the Turkish garrison from Mala Zwornik and Sakhar was the rapid advance in that direction of several Austrian divisions, which, after taking and destroying Brcka, have occupied, without resistance, Bjelina and Zugla, where large bodies of insurgents had assembled to bar their further progress. Since then an important engagement has been fought in the neighbourhood of Visegrad, in which, according to the account furnished me by Prince Wrede, the insurgents were totally defeated.

In spite of the formidable preparations for defence which are reported to have been made at Great Zwornik, it would seem that the insurgents are becoming thoroughly disheartened, and that the struggle in Bosnia is rapidly drawing to an end. News has just been received, which, however, requires confirmation, that 21,000 Bosnians, some with and others without arms, have been driven across the Servian frontiers.

Owing to these events, the Government have sent all the troops they can spare to their western frontiers, and called out the Militia in the adjacent military districts. They have at the same time communicated to the Austrian Agent here the instructions they have addressed to their Commanding Officers on the frontier, and he has expressed his entire satisfaction with the measures they intend to adopt with regard to the insurgents.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 2.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 1.)

(No. 873.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 30, 1878.*

GRAND VIZIER is convinced that Turkey could raise a loan on reasonable terms upon the revenues of Cyprus to be paid to the Porte under the Convention if Her Majesty's Government would make a public record of its readiness to pay them into the hands of delegates whom the Porte shall appoint to receive them.

No. 3.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 1.)

(No. 874.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 30, 1878.*

THE Russian Ambassador has informed the Grand Vizier that the Emperor of Russia has agreed to defer delimitation of frontiers of Montenegro until next year, but presses the Porte to give up Podgoritza. At the request of the Grand Vizier he has promised to write to the Emperor to ask His Majesty to use his influence to prevail upon Servia to renounce Vranja for a pecuniary or other consideration. His Highness trusts that he may have the support of Her Majesty's Government in this matter.

No. 4.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 1.)

(No. 875.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 30, 1878.*

ANSWER about reforms was sanctioned yesterday by the Council of Ministers and now awaits Sultan's approval. It accepts our proposals in principle. As regards the Gendarmerie, Porte will consent to naming European officers to different commands; as regards the Tribunals, Porte will submit that Europeans fitted to be Judges are difficult to be found. Inspectors, among whom may be Europeans, shall be named to all vilayets, who will superintend all the Tribunals in them, and report cases of miscarriage of justice, corruption, &c., to the Minister of Justice. As regards the abolition of titles, Porte is willing to commence experiment in two vilayets, and to extend it to others by degrees if it proves successful, and Europeans will be employed as suggested by Her Majesty's Government. Grand Vizier promises me this answer in writing as soon as Sultan's authority is obtained.

No. 5.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 1.)

(No. 876.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 30, 1878.*

PRINCE OF SERVIA has telegraphed to the Sultan expressing his desire that friendly relations should at once be re-established between them.

No. 6.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 1.)

(No. 877.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 30, 1878.*

GRAND VIZIER is willing to name Rustem Pasha Governor of Eastern Roumelia, but he fears that if he proceeds there he will be put aside by the Russian authorities, and be placed in a position which would be inconsistent with his dignity

and that of the Porte. He would be glad of your Lordship's opinion on the subject.

No. 7.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 1.)

(No. 878.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 30, 1878.*

GRAND VIZIER told me this morning that he had now come to the conviction that, after what had taken place in Bosnia, the Sultan could not, in his character of Caliph, sanction the proposed Convention with Austria; but he has assured Count Zichy that, while leaving matters as they are, it is the earnest desire of Turkey to maintain the most friendly relations with Austria, and that no interruption whatever should take place in them.

No. 8.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 1.)

(No. 879. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 30, 1878.*

SAFVET PASHA requests your Lordship to kindly advise as to whether he should accept Article relating to payment by Turkey of the indemnity to Russia contained in the draft Treaty transmitted to your Lordship in my despatch No. 1,148, which his Highness believes would be highly prejudicial to Turkey. Is there any other proposal, his Highness asks, which your Lordship would suggest that he should make?

No. 9.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 1.)

(No. 880.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 30, 1878.*

WITH reference to your telegram of to-day, I have heard Murif Effendi had presented a Memorial to the Sultan to the effect mentioned in your telegram, and that Russian Embassy had succeeded in obtaining a copy of it. I am making inquiries on the subject.

No. 10.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 1.)

(No. 881.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 1, 1878.*

FOLLOWING from Calvert, dated Philippopolis, 30th September:—

"It is reported that Peteo has been arrested by Russians.

"I am informed that concentration of Russian troops continues at Kostendil. A corps of volunteers is being enrolled there under an outlaw named Elis, of Malesh, who will enter Macedon shortly, and that Bulgarian Bishops of Ochrida and Istib, whose Sees are in Macedon, are travelling about the district of Kostendil exhorting people to join revolution beyond the border.

No. 11.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 1.)

(No. 240. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October* 1, 1878.

APPLICATION was made as a personal favour to the Emperor of Russia for permission for two Russian officers to join the Austro-Hungarian army in Bosnia, to which a courteous answer, intended to make it understood that they were not wanted, was returned.

Emperor of Russia has, however, taken it as a permission, and says it affords him the greater pleasure, as the presence of his officers will form a "lien" between the Russian and Austrian armies in face of the Albanian league.

As Major Gonne has arrived at Brod, it would not be desirable that he should return to head-quarters, where his presence might afford a pretext for that of the Russians.

No. 12.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 1.)

(No. 241.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October* 1, 1878.

THE report of the Hungarian Minister of Finance having definitively resigned, and of his colleagues having associated themselves with him, is at least premature, and probably exaggerated. The public meeting at Pesth against the foreign policy of the Government appears to have been a failure, few persons of mark having attended it, and the country in general having since intimated no inclination to approve the resolutions blaming the Government.

No. 13.

Sir H. Drummond-Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 1.)

(No. 19.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 30, 1878.

FIRST meeting of Commission to-day.

Presidency:—Agreed, after discussion, that the Turk should preside so long as the Commission sits at Constantinople. When in Roumelia to obtain preponderance by alphabetical order, as was done at Bucharest in 1850. I accepted, and advised Turks to do so to avoid a division.

Secretariat:—Three secretaries—French, Russian, and Turkish. German proposed that petitions should be addressed to Commission collectively, and none accepted, substance of which contravened Treaty of Berlin. Sub-Commission named for petitions, viz., Russian, French, and English Assistant Commissioners.

Tzeretelew having raised question as to powers of Commissioners, I asked that all should be produced. Tzeretelew had thought Russian Commissioner had one. I insisted that all ought to have a power, signed either by his Sovereign or his Minister for Foreign Affairs, like Austrian. It turned out German had none at all, and said none was necessary. Turks argued, and I supported them, that some sort of power was indispensable. German offered to get one from his Ambassador. I insisted that a power to bind should be from his Sovereign or his Government. He has been appointed *à titre provisoire*. He votes absolutely with the Russians. If we insist on power Germany will probably name somebody else. It would be well to have a better even if a more formidable man, who would be more responsible. My remarks were in a friendly tone, and he could not be offended; but as the Russians raised questions of Turkish powers, I think it essential that the Governments should pledge themselves by some document to be bound by their Commissioners. At Lebanon Commission all the Representatives had powers like those I have now. Please instruct me on this point.

Frenchman gave notice of a motion respecting finance. Before Commission

Grand Vizier came for a short time and made a conciliatory speech, saying Porte was preparing a form of proposal.

Russians promised all information in their power.

No. 14.

Sir H. Drummond-Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 1.)

(No. 20.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 30, 1878.

IT is most essential for me to have instructions respecting powers of the Commissioners. Russians having raised question of binding nature of engagements entered into by Turkish Commissioner, we should know how far other Governments are bound. German tried to satisfy us by saying that his appointment had been notified to other Powers, which was enough, and that he would get a letter from his Ambassador. Will this be sufficient? German cannot be offended by our insisting on all Commissioners being treated alike. Powers not being produced may later be alleged as reason for evading or disavowing engagements.

Please reply, if possible, before Thursday, our next meeting.

No. 15.

Sir H. Drummond-Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 1.)

(No. 21.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 1, 1878.

PLEASE let me know if nomination of the German Commissioner or Russian Assistant-Commissioner was communicated to Her Majesty's Government. I do not see his name in the despatches.

No. 16.

Sir H. Drummond-Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 1.)

(No. 23.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 1, 1878.

FRENCH Ambassador has telegraphed to his Government as to powers of Commissioners, in which question he agrees with me, as do the Turks.

No. 17.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 1, 1878, 4 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 867, you should support Count Zichy in obtaining from the Porte any support it is able to give against Albanian attack on Austrians.

No. 18.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1177.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 1, 1878.

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 867 of the 28th instant, stating the substance of a representation which Count Zichy has been instructed to make with regard to a force of Arnauts and Albanians said to be assembled in the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar with the intention of advancing into Bosnia.

I have instructed you to support Count Zichy in his endeavours to induce the

Porte to take whatever measures are in its power to protect the Austrian troops occupying Bosnia from an attack on the part of this insurgent force.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 19.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 2.)

(No. 72. Political.)
Scutari, September 19, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I have ascertained from a confidential source that Commissioners for the delimitation of the new Montenegrin frontiers are expected to arrive this day by the Ottoman steamer "Tail."

It is impossible for me to exaggerate the danger, under the existing state of things, that would arise should the mission of the expected officials become known. An inevitable explosion would occur, for the Government authorities having prepared the mine cannot now prevent its being sprung by merely saying that it is no longer intended to use it.

They and the troops have entered into solemn engagements to oppose the delivery of any territory to Montenegro, and other Generals and battalions would have to be brought before any changes could be effected.

I recommend that the demarcation should be delayed, and that the expected officials be ordered to keep secret, for the present, the duty which had been confided to them.

Several of the Generals here, and the Commandant of Podgoritza, fearing that they may be called upon to fall back from the present frontiers, have, by telegraph to Constantinople, desired to be relieved of their commands.

Should it be decided to attempt to carry out the evacuation, notwithstanding these warnings, I trust notice of the fact will be given me in time to enable me to place my family beyond the reach of danger.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 20.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 2.)

(No. 109.)
Belgrade, September 27, 1878.

My Lord,

THE Russian Agent and Consul-General here, M. Alexandre Persiani, formally presented to-day to His Highness Prince Milan letters of credence from the Emperor of Russia, raising him to the rank of Minister Resident.

Prince Wrede has also notified to the Servian Government that the Emperor of Austria has decided to accredit a Minister Resident to His Highness' Court.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 21.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 2.)

(No. 771.)
Paris, October 1, 1878.

My Lord,

M. WADDINGTON told me yesterday that he should probably, in a few days, address a Circular to the Representatives of France at the great Courts, directing them to ask what were the views taken by the Government to which they were respectively accredited as to the course to be adopted with regard to the conclusions come to at Berlin respecting Greece.

M. Waddington said that it seemed to be thought that France should take the initiative in bringing the matter forward, and that the time had come for her doing so.

He observed that various changes in the arrangements recommended by the Congress had been suggested, and that the most prominent of these suggestions was that Turkey should cede Crete or other islands to Greece rather than give up to her territory on the Continent. It was, however, M. Waddington thought, to be remembered that a change of this kind might defeat one of the principal objects which had been contemplated. By an augmentation of the continental territory of Greece, support would be given to the endeavours of the Hellenic race in Turkey to hold its own against rival nationalities, which received powerful protection from abroad. The acquisition by the Kingdom of Greece of insular possessions would not, M. Waddington conceived, conduce directly to this result.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 22.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 2.)

(No. 882.)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, October 1, 1878.

FOLLOWING from Vice-Consul Calvert, dated Philippopolis, 29th September:—

"A meeting, attended by 2,000 Bulgarians, has just been held under Bulgarian Archbishop. The latter made a speech, in which he urged all true Bulgarians to oppose by force, if necessary, the restoration of Turkish rule, and to contribute by every means in their power to the liberation of their brothers in Macedonia, who have already began to revolt. At close of the meeting a committee was formed to forward succour in money, arms, volunteers, &c., to the Macedonian insurgents; and a subscription committee, with a Russian officer at their [? head], has been formed to collect and forward supplies to the robber Petco. I have learnt nothing new of this person's movements."

No. 23.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 2.)

(No. 883.)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, October 1, 1878.

FOLLOWING from Vice-Consul Calvert, dated Philippopolis, 30th September:—

"News of Petco's arrest is true. He was enticed into the Russian lines by promise of receiving supplies and then was seized, and he has just arrived here under escort."

No. 24.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 2.)

(No. 884.)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, October 1, 1878.

FOLLOWING from Vice-Consul Calvert, dated Philippopolis, 30th September:—

"Shaban and Arif Aghas have better treatment since yesterday. Chains round their waist have been removed, and get (*sic*) covering, and better food have been granted them."

No. 25.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 2.)

(No. .)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, October 1, 1878.

COLONEL HOME has asked me to send the following to you:—

"Boundary Commission not yet met. Understand Russian Commissioner has not got powers. Please instruct me how to act should this prove correct."

No. 26.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 2.)

(No. 886.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 2, 1878.*

FOLLOWING from Vice-Consul at Trebizond dated 30th :—

"Dervish Pasha departed yesterday for Erzeroum. Total troops marched there 6,000; Turkish squadron steamed last night for Constantinople with 5,000 troops on board; 1,000 quartered here.

No. 27.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 2.)

(No. 887. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 2, 1878.*

I SPOKE to the Russian Ambassador to-day about the language used by Prince Dondoukoff to Lord Donoughmore. He said that no importance should be attached to it, and that the last words of the Emperor when he left Livadia last week were that it was His Majesty's firm intention that the Treaty of Berlin should be loyally and scrupulously executed in all its details. Russian Ambassador assured me that no difficulties whatever would be placed in the way of the European Commission by the Russian authorities at Philipopolis, but that they would give it every assistance to carry out the task assigned to it by the Treaty, and that Prince Dondoukoff was doing his utmost to discourage Bulgarians from opposing the decisions of the Congress. I expressed satisfaction at receiving assurances, but my regret that the information which reached me from Philippopolis was not quite in accordance with them.

No. 28.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 2.)

(No. 888.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 2, 1878.*

RUSSIAN Ambassador informs me that the Russian Commissioner for the delimitation of the frontiers of Montenegro states that the snows having commenced it is necessary to put off the work of the Commission until next year, and that the Emperor has authorized him to come away, but wished to know whether the other Powers will agree to this arrangement, and will also withdraw their Commissioners for the time. His Majesty instructed the Ambassador to speak to me on the subject.

No. 29.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 2.)

(No. 242.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 2, 1878.*

COUNT ANDRASSY tells me that the Russian Government are about to intimate that, if the Porte declares itself unable at present to carry out the provisions of the Treaty in regard to Montenegro, they will have to keep 100,000 men instead of 50,000 in Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia.

His Excellency is most anxious that the Porte should give distinct evidence of its intention to evacuate Podgoritza and Spitza at the earliest possible period, so as to deprive the Russians of the power of saying that the Treaty is not being executed. He says that he has no wish to hurry the Porte into steps beyond what it has authority to enforce, but it should immediately send troops and Commanders who can be relied upon to carry out its instructions in regard to those two places.

No. 30.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 2.)

(No. 243.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 2, 1878.*

IN reply to a question I put to him, Count Andrassy said that he cannot admit there being a doubt that the Treaty of Berlin is to be considered the definitive Treaty, three months after the ratification of which the Russians are bound to have evacuated Turkish territory, except Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia, and to have reduced their forces to 50,000 in those provinces.

No. 31.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 2.)

(No. 244.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 2, 1878.*

COUNT ANDRASSY considers that the IVth Article of the Treaty, proposed by Russia to the Porte, by which it would have no part in the administration of the territories to be restored to Turkey till they are completely evacuated, is contrary to the decisions come to at Berlin, and that the Porte should not agree to it.

No. 32.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 2.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, October 2, 1878.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 30th ultimo, I have intimated to Roumanian Government, in exactly the same form as the Austrian Consul, the readiness of Her Majesty's Government to address the Prince in the same manner.

Intimation of Austrian Government accepts the designation of His Royal Highness for the present Sovereign and his successors of the dynasty of Hohenzollern.

No. 33.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Gould.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 2, 1878, 4·45 P.M.*

IN reply to Major Wilson's telegram forwarded by you on the 30th ultimo, the whole Bulgarian frontier is assigned by the Treaty to one Commission. I think a portion can hardly be deducted from its task and given to another Commission without the formal consent of all the Powers. Major Wilson should not join in any operations of demarkation in the absence of Turkish Commissioner.

No. 34.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 2, 1878, 5·30 P.M.*

MUSURUS PASHA is said to have persuaded the Sultan to refuse Austrian Convention. This is very much at variance with language used by him in England. It might be worth while to speak to him.

Pay careful attention to Sir H. Elliot's telegram No. 237 repeated to you to-day.

No. 35.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond-Wolff.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 2, 1878.

AS far as I understand the question, I think authority from Ambassador to Commissioner will bind each Government as much as it can be bound.

I do not apprehend danger of any Government repudiating action of its Commissioner on the ground of informality of power.

No. 36.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1181.) *Foreign Office, October* 2, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE telegraphed this day to inform you of a report which has reached Her Majesty's Government that Musurus Pasha has been influential in persuading the Sultan to refuse his consent to the proposed Convention with Austria for the occupation of Bosnia. If this should be true, his Excellency's language has been singularly at variance with that which he held before he left England. It is possible that some observations to him on your part may be of use.

I have forwarded to you a telegraphic despatch received from Sir H. Elliot, in which he states his conviction that if the Porte should issue such a Circular as you describe in your telegram No. 847, Secret, of the 21st instant, protesting against the Austrian occupation of Bosnia, it would produce a feeling of exasperation at Vienna which might affect the whole future policy of Austria towards Turkey.

The matter appears to me deserving of your special attention, and your efforts to dissuade the Turkish Ministers from taking this step should not be relaxed.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 37.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond-Wolff.

(No. 37.) *Foreign Office, October* 2, 1878.

Sir,

IN reply to the inquiry made in your telegram of the 30th ultimo as to the sufficiency of the powers of your colleagues on the Commission, I have intimated to you by telegraph my opinion that an official letter from the Ambassador, giving formal authority to the Commissioner to act on behalf of the country which he represents is sufficient to bind the Government concerned, as far as it can be bound, to recognize the acts of the Commissioner so empowered as done on its behalf.

It does not appear to me, as at present advised, that there is occasion to apprehend that any of the Governments concerned will take advantage of an informality in the powers of its own Commissioner to repudiate his action.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 38.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Gould.

(No. 27.) *Foreign Office, October* 2, 1878.

Sir,

IT appears from the message from Major Wilson, forwarded by you on the 30th ultimo, that the other members of the Servian Boundary Commission consider that they are empowered to undertake the demarkation of the frontier, separating the new accession to Servia from Bulgaria, and propose to proceed with that part of the work in the first instance. By Article II of the Treaty of Berlin, however, the demarkation of the whole Bulgarian frontier is assigned to a single Commission. Such being the case, it would be necessary, in my opinion, that the formal consent of all the

Powers should be signified before a portion of the task intrusted to the Bulgarian frontier Commission could be taken from it, and given to another set of Commissioners.

In reply to Major Wilson's inquiry, whether the Commission can commence their work in the absence of a Turkish Commissioner, I have requested you to inform Major Wilson that he should not take part in any operations of demarkation until his Turkish colleague arrives.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 39.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Major Gordon.

(No. 2.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 2, 1878.

THE Queen having been graciously pleased to appoint you to be Her Majesty's Commissioner for the demarcation of the southern and south-western frontiers of the province of Eastern Roumelia, I have to instruct you to proceed without delay to Constantinople, where the Commission will in the first instance assemble.

The frontiers assigned to the province are described in general terms in the XIVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, of which a copy is herewith inclosed for your information and guidance. A copy of the Protocols of the Congress of Berlin is also inclosed.

You will observe that by Article II of the Treaty, the settlement of the frontiers of Bulgaria is entrusted to the European Commission constituted under that Article. The demarcation, therefore, of that part of the frontiers of the new province which borders on Bulgaria will be carried out by the Bulgarian Boundary Commission, and the Commission of which you are a member will only be charged with the delimitation of the remaining portion.

I transmit to you further, for your information and guidance, copy of a letter from General Sir L. Simmons, from which you will perceive that before leaving Berlin the members of the Committee employed in the description of the frontiers laid down in the Treaty, compared together the tracings on their several maps with the descriptions given in the Treaty. A certified facsimile copy of that portion of the map, as compared by Captain Ardagh, which bears on it the tracing of the frontiers of the province, has been prepared for your use and is inclosed herewith, together with a copy of Captain Ardagh's Memorandum of what passed on the occasion of the comparison.

You will refer to Colonel Home, Her Majesty's Commissioner for the demarcation of the frontier of Bulgaria, upon any question of importance that may arise in regard to the labours or decisions of the Commission, and will be guided in such matters and in regard to your general conduct, while engaged in the business of the Commission, by his advice and instructions. The object of Her Majesty's Government in sending a Commissioner to take part in the work before you, has been to contribute, as far as lay in their power, to a definitive and authoritative settlement of the frontier of the new province in conformity with the intentions of the Signatory Powers. They consider it desirable that the Commission should, as far as possible, settle any question upon which difference may arise by a vote of the majority; but should any of your colleagues object to this course, you will refer the matter to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, informing Colonel Home that you have done so, and reporting the circumstances at once to me.

It is believed that the process of demarcation can be carried on during the winter season in most of the country through which you will have to pass, but, should the labours of the Commission have to be suspended for any considerable time on account of the weather, you will not fail to let me have the earliest intelligence by telegraph, stating at the same time at what date the work can probably be resumed.

Upon your arrival at Constantinople you should at once place yourself in communication with Her Majesty's Ambassador there, who will be able to inform you if Colonel Home is still at that capital, and to give you any other information and assistance of which you may stand in need.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 40.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Major Gordon.

(No. 3.)

Foreign Office, October 2, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE to inform you that Lieutenant F. R. de Wolski, of the Royal Engineers, has been appointed to assist you in your duties as Her Majesty's Commissioner for the demarcation of the frontier of Eastern Roumelia.

During the time you are employed on the business of the Commission you will receive a salary at the rate of 500*l.* a-year, and Lieutenant de Wolski a salary at the rate of 450*l.* a-year, in addition to your regimental pay, and your actual travelling expenses, together with such military allowances as you are respectively entitled to by the regulations of the service.

You are authorized to incur such expenses as may be necessary for interpreters, &c., charging the same in your accounts.

You will draw upon the War Department for such moneys as may be required for all these purposes, and will forward your accounts through this Office to be audited by that Department.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY

No. 41.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Major Gordon.

(No. 4. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, October 2, 1878.

Sir,

UPON your arrival at Constantinople I should wish you to place yourself in communication with Sir H. Drummond-Wolff, Her Majesty's Commissioner for the organization of Eastern Roumelia, and to arrange to supply him with any information you may be able to gather while, travelling in the province, of a nature to be useful to him.

Should Sir D. Wolff have already left Constantinople, Sir H. Layard will doubtless be able to indicate to you the character of the information desired. It is particularly with regard to the condition of the population in the various districts, the proportionate number of the several races and religions in each, and the measures taken by the Russian authorities to collect the taxes, that Sir D. Wolff wishes to be informed.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 42.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 124. Political.)

Trebizond, September 18, 1878.

My Lord,

ON the 12th instant General Kamaroff had a secret interview with some of the Laz Beys, and tried to impress them with all the advantages to be derived by them by their rallying to Russia. He assured them that no pains would be spared on the part of the Government to promote the welfare of the native populations, which, he said, would no longer be, as they had been hitherto, inhumanly treated by Turkey. He explained at the same time that if the Russian troops had sometimes dealt severely with the Turks, it had been in retaliation for the numerous acts of cruelty perpetrated by them.

He told them, on another occasion, that he was certain that it had been at the instigation of others that they wanted to oppose the occupation of their country by the Russians, but that they will find by experience that they will be greatly benefited by the change.

Don Gregorio Poutchinian sent me word that General Kamaroff having heard that I had addressed two letters to him on the subject of the Lazes, the General was trying to get hold of them, but that he was concealing them. I informed Don Gregorio's

messenger that it was not in our habits to act underhand, and that he could freely communicate my correspondence with him.

On Sunday last a grand dinner was offered by General Kamaroff to all the Laz Beys, and the toasts proposed on that occasion were the health of the Emperor and that of the Sultan. Decorations have been bestowed on some of the Beys, and the most cordial and winning manners are used towards the Lazes in general, who seem to have resigned themselves to their fate.

Agents have been sent again here to try and induce the emigrants to return to Batoum, but hitherto to no avail. However, it can be foreseen that very few, if any, other Lazes will henceforth emigrate.

The Governor-General wishes, but has not the means, to dispatch the departure of those who are here to their final places of settlement, to prevent their repatriation, which, he says, Dervish Pasha is trying to favourize.

Fresh troops are said to arrive daily from Poti to Batoum.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

P.S.—*19th September.*—The Lazes, according to information just received from Batoum, have made their submission to Russia.

A. B.

No. 43.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 125. Political.)

Trebizond, September 20, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that on the 16th instant 1,200 Turkish prisoners arrived from Poti and Batoum.

Hussein Bey, Commander of Artillery at Kars, who was amongst them, has been ordered to depart for Baiburt.

The men are to be incorporated again in the battalions to which they belong.

They were dressed in variegated and by no means prepossessing costumes. Some of the men were in their worn-out uniforms, some in Russian uniforms, others in civilian dresses; they had on, at times, one primitive Turkish sandal on one foot, and one fine Russian boot on the other; the fezes of a few which had been lost had been replaced by black head-coverings.

It seems, however, beyond doubt that, as besides rations of bread and 20 kopecks (5*d.*) a-day, the prisoners were allowed to work on their own account, some of them have saved money during their captivity. No other prisoners are expected from Poti and Batoum.

The departure for the interior of the battalions belonging to the 4th Army Corps began on the 16th ultimo, and is now nearly completed. They take with them the field and mountain-guns arrived from Batoum.

Desertions have been and continue to be numerous, but cannot be ascertained by me; 45 men deserted from one battalion in a single night.

The number of sick in the hospital amounts to 600, with a death-rate of 1 per cent. a-day; but many prefer to be ill under the tent than enter the hospital.

The cavalry which was coming overland from Batoum has arrived here yesterday; it consists of only two squadrons, but it is said that other squadrons proceeded direct to Baiburt.

I beg to inclose a list as approximative as possible of the men, horses, cannon, munitions, and stores that have been landed here, some of them after my last report from Batoum.

The battalions are now reckoned to be only eighteen; they were originally more numerous, but on the number of men being reduced by death, sickness, &c., two battalions have often been amalgamated into one.

The Livanah and Batoum battalions have been disbanded before the evacuation.

According to the last official information, Erzeroum was to be handed over on the 19th instant at noon to Mussa Pasha, but, to my knowledge, no confirmation of its surrender has yet been received here.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure in No. 43.

A List of the Men, Horses, Artillery, Munitions, and Stores arrived from Batoum to Trebizond on the evacuation of the former place.

INFANTRY.

Names of Battalions.	Army Corps.	Class.	Complement.	Destination.
Ismid	1st	Redifs		
Ermenek	"	"		
Aksheher	"	"		
Karaman	"	"		Constantinople.
Konieh	"	"		
Nevsheher	2nd	"		
Balikesir	"	"		
Eskisheher	"	Nizam	11,000	
Pergam	4th	"		
Tulin	"	Mustahfiz		
Samoona	"	Redifs		Erzinghian or Erzeroum.
Amasia	"	"		
Zileh	"	"		
Eregli	"	"		
Ofli	"	"		Constantinople.
1 Zeibecks	..	..		
2 other volunteers	..	..		

CAVALRY.

2 Squadrons of Regulars.
500 Transport horses.

ARTILLERY.

15-centimètre Krupp position guns	12
15 " brass "	2
12 " " "	2
Brass mortars	0
8 and 9 centimètre steel Krupp field-pieces	36
Bronze Krupp mountain-pieces	16
Smooth-bores	2
Total	81

MUNITIONS.

Barrels of gunpowder	500
Cases of cannon and rifle ammunition	106,254
Total	106,754

OTHER STORES.

29,370 packages and bags of accoutrements and provisions.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Trebizond, September 20, 1878.

No. 44.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 126. Political.)
Trebizond, September 21, 1878.

My Lord,

I HEAR from different sources many discreditable reports on Dervish Pasha.

He is accused of peculation during the whole time of his command at Batoum; the troops received, it is said, only three-quarters of their rations.

He is supposed to have thus realized a benefit of about 1,000*l.* a month, or upwards of 15,000*l.* during his residence at Batoum.

The Governor-General told me that Dervish Pasha had received lately 2,000,000 piastres from Constantinople, and 1,000,000 piastres from Trebizond, and that the troops complained of not being paid, and of insufficient rations being served to them.

To these motives are ascribed the numerous desertions that take place daily.

Yussuf Pasha informed me besides that petitions, addressed within the last few days to the Porte and to himself from Batoum, complaining of Dervish Pasha, had been intercepted by him, as well as a telegram addressed to Yussuf Pasha, inquiring whether these petitions had ever been received.

Dervish Pasha is feared, but is far from being popular.

If I am to judge from what has occurred here, Dervish Pasha assumes too much upon himself, and is sometimes impelled towards committing rash acts.

He wanted a house not far from the sea-shore, perhaps in order to better superintend the disembarkation and embarkation of troops, and as he could not get one he ejected by a military force the Custom-house staff of Erzeroum, who are now here, from their office, which must also be near the sea-shore, and turned out in the street the numerous boxes containing the archives.

When at the beginning of this week the Turkish postal steamer from Constantinople to Batoum had landed here part of her cargo, Dervish Pasha ordered the goods to be landed, and his commands had been partly carried out when, at the request of the interested merchants, Yussuf Pasha interfered, and obtained, after a delay of four-and-twenty hours, that the steamer should proceed to Batoum.

It seems, however, that the request was granted when Yussuf Pasha mentioned that there were Russian merchants protesting against the detention of the steamer.

Dervish Pasha's pretension was the less comprehensible that he had at his disposal four steamers, for which he has not yet found employment.

Yussuf Pasha asked repeatedly Dervish Pasha to allow these steamers to carry the Laz emigrants to their destination, but he refused to do so on the plea that he had to send troops to Constantinople; however, these steamers have remained idle for the last ten days, though it is said that they are finally to embark the Zeibecks and other volunteers for the capital.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 45.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 95. Political.)
Canea, Crete, September 23, 1878.

My Lord,

THE Cretan Christians are extremely anxious that the Organic Law, when it shall have been finally revised and completed, should be guaranteed to them by Her Majesty's Government. They declare that whatever concessions may, through England's mediation, be now granted them, they will be an uncertain possession unless their execution be watched over by a foreign Power, to which they may have the right to appeal in case of the infraction of any of them. I have, therefore, the honour to submit this request of the Cretans to your Lordship's consideration, and to beg that I may be favoured with a telegram instructing me whether I may inform them that Her Majesty's Government is prepared to undertake the responsibility they thus seek to impose upon it, as soon as an understanding on the subject shall have been come to at Constantinople. Of course, they would be just as well satisfied with the collective guarantee of the Great Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 46.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 96. Political.)
Canea, Crete, September 23, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the French despatch boat "Bisson," which has been stationed in Cretan waters for the past three months, left the little harbour of Canea for Syra on the 18th instant. The object of her voyage is

to take in a store of gunpowder and ammunition, and she is expected to return to her anchorage in the course of to-day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 47.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 97. Political.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, September* 23, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, copies of three despatches which I have written to his Excellency Sir Austen Layard, viz.:—

1. Describing the steps taken to repatriate the Mussulman peasantry.

2. Reporting an interview I have had with the Imperial Commissioner, and his disinclination to grant many of the Cretan demands.

3. Reporting the seventh sitting of the Delegates in which the demand for the appointment of a Christian Governor-General for Crete was refused.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 1 in No. 47.

Consul Sandwith to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Canea, Crete, September* 20, 1878.

IN a conversation with their Excellencies Ghazi Mukhtar and Costaki Pashas the question was revived as to whether it would be possible to make some arrangement by which the Mussulmans might return at once to their homes. The olive crop is in some parts of the country now ripe, and as there is every appearance that the negotiations with the Christian Delegates will be prolonged, great fears are entertained lest the dispossessed Mussulmans, cooped up in the narrow limits they now occupy, should be tempted to rob and plunder all within their reach. The Commissioner begged me to use my influence with the Christians to induce them to permit the return of the fugitives, whose condition is such as to excite the deepest pity. After some conversation it was agreed that the Commissioner and the Vali should call a meeting of the principal Mussulman refugees and endeavour to persuade them to return home without the protection of troops, while I, on my part, should seek to induce the Christian insurgents to welcome them back.

On the 18th instant took place the sixth sitting of the Delegates, which was entirely taken up by his Excellency Costaki Pasha trying to persuade them to admit the Mussulmans among them again, and the meeting separated on the understanding that they would set out early the next morning to arrange with the National Assembly for their return. It turned out, however, that the Assembly had given them instructions to break off negotiations, unless the Commissioner yielded on the point of the representation of the Christians in the General Assembly. Most opportunely, that very evening arrived your Excellency's telegram, in which you do me the honour of saying that you agreed with me in the matter of the elections to the General Assembly, and that you had recommended the Grand Vizier to accept the demand of the Cretans, which I was to continue to support. Without a moment's delay I communicated the substance of that despatch to the Delegates, who set out early the next morning with the sincere desire of succeeding in the mission confided to them. I also requested Mr. Vice-Consul Monzzo to accompany them, and to urge the National Assembly, in my name, to accede to the Commissioner's proposal. Meanwhile, your Excellency's telegram had caused the liveliest satisfaction to the entire Christian population; nor do I perceive much discontent on the part of the Mussulmans, who desire nothing so ardently as a prompt settlement of these harassing questions. The same night the Imperial Commissioner and the Vali called a meeting of the Mussulmans, but were not able to overcome their fears of trusting themselves within the power of the insurgents without the presence of the troops to protect them. The next evening Mr. Vice-Consul Moazzo returned from his interview with the National Assembly and native Chiefs, among whom he found so good a disposition to prevail, in consequence of the

news that your Excellency supported their demand on the question of the suffrage, that they showed the utmost willingness to accede to my proposal, which but for that news they would certainly have refused. The Commissioner agreed that Kaimakams acceptable to the Christians should be temporarily appointed, and that a local police should be formed, chosen from both communities.

23rd September.—Yesterday afternoon a great meeting was convened at the Governor-General's residence, composed of twenty of the principal Mussulman refugees and of the Christian Delegates, with the object of making arrangements for the return of the former to their homes. After some discussion an Agreement was drawn up, a translation of which I have the honour to annex.

It provides that the Mussulmans should bear arms, and should be escorted to their homes by the Christians.

That there shall be elected in each Kaza a Mussulman and a Christian Chief, and a Council for the trial of offences.

That the same Council shall proceed to organize a police force, selected from both communities.

The best feeling prevailed at the meeting, the Mussulmans especially expressing their gratitude towards his Excellency Costaki Pasha for the efforts he had made to restore them to their homes, and for his treatment of them while here in exile.

The Agreement has not yet been signed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 47.

Agreement drawn up to facilitate the Return of the Mussulmans to their Homes.

(Traduction.)

LES Soussignés, délégués des habitants Musulmans de Crète d'une part, et les délégués de l'Assemblée Générale des Chrétiens de l'autre, réunis pour délibérer sur la rentrée des Musulmans à leur foyers, nous nous sommes entendus sur ce qui suit:—

1. Un nombre suffisant de Chrétiens, sous la conduite des hommes sages et de bonne reputation, attendront à un lieu convenable, pour accompagner chez eux les Musulmans, qui peuvent porter leurs armes.

2. Quand les Musulmans arriveront à leurs villages, leurs primats réunis avec ceux des Chrétiens procéderont à l'élection d'un Supérieur [Προϊστάμενος] de chaque partie, et d'un Conseil de personnes convenables, devant lequel seront discutés et jugés les procès ordinaires. Quand aux coupables des délits ils doivent être arrêtés et interrogés par le dit Conseil, qui les enverra ensuite, avec le dossier correspondant, aux chefs-lieux administratifs, pour être jugés définitivement et y subir leur peine.

3. Les mêmes Conseils seront chargés du soin de former une garde mixte, composée exclusivement d'habitants du même district, et c'est à cette garde, ou gendarmerie, qu'il sera confié le maintien de l'ordre.

4. Les délégués de l'Assemblée Générale porteront aujourd'hui même à sa connaissance ce qui a été ici convenu. Elle enverra des instructions aux divers districts, de sorte que la rentrée des Musulmans puisse commencer le plus tôt possible.

Halepa, le $\frac{22}{10}$ *Septembre*, 1878.

Inclosure 3 in No. 47.

Consul Sandwith to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Canea, Crete, September* 20, 1878.

ON the 19th instant I had a long and confidential conversation with his Excellency Ghazi Mukhtar Pasha, from whom I endeavoured to find out how far his instructions permitted, or his inclination prompted, him to yield to the demands of the Christians, as set forth in my despatch of the 1st ultimo. I learnt that while his Excellency was willing that a Governor-General should be appointed for a period of five years, he would not listen to the proposal that the Porte should engage itself to its own subjects not to appoint any Governor in Crete but one belonging to the Greek Orthodox Church, which is what the Cretans mean by a Christian Governor. His Excellency would not concede the principle that because the majority of any

province are Christians therefore the Governor-General should be a Christian, and I am far from thinking that he is wrong. Yet I venture to think that Crete having long been considered in the light of a privileged province, inhabited by Christians who, owing to their propinquity to Greece and their mountainous country, have been as a thorn in the side of its rulers, it would not be altogether impolitic to humour its population in regard to a point which need not necessarily be taken as a precedent applicable to other provinces. I do not, moreover, forget (nor the Cretans either) that the Earl of Derby, when Foreign Secretary in 1867, strongly urged on the Porte the appointment of a Christian Governor-General to Crete as a measure calculated to satisfy the discontented islanders, and your Excellency had, I presume, the same object in view in recommending the nomination of his Excellency Costaki Pasha to his present post. The Cretans are keenly alive to the importance of keeping a functionary in whose justice they have the fullest confidence, and if the Porte were now to remove him and to appoint a Mussulman Vali they would look upon it as a determination on its part not to listen to their wishes. The character for justice and impartiality left by Costaki Pasha in the eastern end of Crete, which he formerly administered for three years, is such as it falls to the lot of few Governors to enjoy, Mussulmans joining in his praise equally with the Christians. It is of the utmost importance that when the time arrives for filling up the posts left vacant during the present troubles, the Governor-General who recommends to these posts should be a man intimately acquainted with the characters of the crowd of candidates urging their claims for appointment. A stranger, having to depend on interested local advisers, would inevitably fall into grievous mistakes.

When your Excellency, in your letter of instructions, informed me that the Grand Vizier considered the demands put forward by the General Assembly to be acceptable in principle, and that the Imperial Commissioner would be instructed to agree to a modification of the Organic Law in conformity with them, I naturally supposed that his Excellency had really received such instructions. I now find that this is far from being the case. Two demands to which the Christians attach great importance he will not hear of, viz., that the Governor-General should be a Christian, and that the regular troops should be confined to fortresses on the coast. His Excellency thinks it an advantage that all employés should speak Greek, but he will not make such knowledge a *sine qua non*, nor will he give an unqualified adhesion to the principle that the gendarmerie should be formed exclusively of natives chosen from both communities in proportion to their respective numbers. When I recently telegraphed to your Excellency that if the demand of the Christians for a preponderance of votes in the General Assembly were accorded them, I looked upon the pacification of Crete as assured, I had all along supposed that the Commissioner had been instructed to accept the demands now under consideration. Seeing that his Excellency is far from being in so compliant a mood, as he even threatens to resign if engagements of that nature are to be entered into with the Cretans, it occurred to me that the question of principle as to the appointment of a Christian Governor-General might be waived for the present if his Excellency Costaki Pasha were at once confirmed in his post.

In accordance with this idea I had the honour this morning to telegraph thus to your Excellency:—

"I find that the Commissioner, with whom I have had a confidential conversation, refuses to grant these two demands, mentioned in my despatch of the 1st ultimo, viz., that the regular troops be confined to fortresses on the coast, and that the Vali be a Christian. His Excellency considered them humiliating, which is true; but unfortunately the Christian Delegates insist especially upon the latter demand, and I fear that they will break off negotiations unless it be accorded them. His Excellency tells me he will resign rather than yield this point. According to your letter of instructions the Commissioner was authorized to grant these demands. Could Costaki Pasha be at once confirmed Vali for five years, in order to avoid a rupture, without further discussion of (the question of) principle?

"The Commissioner now objects to my being present at the sittings of the Delegates lest it should give umbrage to my colleagues."

I may remark on the latter paragraph that the reason there adduced against my presence I consider as a mere pretext. If the Christians had not made such a point of my being present I should not have cared to urge it.

I beg, in conclusion, to point out to your Excellency that one of the greatest obstacles to arriving at a satisfactory settlement of the differences between the Cretans and the Government is the fact that the latter are being arraigned, as it were, before

the bar of their own subjects yet in arms, and are being asked to yield one point after another, each concession inflicting a fresh wound on their pride. The process is most irritating, and it cannot be wondered at if a high-spirited soldier like Ghazi Mukhtar Pasha should wince under it, and should consider some of the Cretans' demands as an affront put upon his Government. On the other hand, the Christians are in no yielding mood, being persuaded that, if they cannot obtain their desires now that they have the good offices of England to fall back upon, they will never do so by peaceful means. His Excellency Costaki Pasha, who so thoroughly understands the Cretans, might, perhaps, while saving appearances for his Government, have satisfied them. As it is, I would venture to suggest that the two questions which seem to present such insuperable obstacles to an arrangement, viz., the appointment of a Christian Governor for five years, and the posting regular troops in the interior of the island, should be removed from discussion here, and a decision on them be arrived at at Constantinople. The Christians attach much more importance to the former than to the latter question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 4 in No. 47.

Consul Sandwith to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Canea, Crete, September 21, 1878.*

THE seventh meeting of the Cretan Delegates took place to-day in the presence of the Imperial Commissioner and Salim Effendi, his Excellency Costaki Pasha being absent from indisposition.

Ghazi Mukhtar Pasha announced to his hearers that he had the evening before received from his Government a telegram which gave his Excellency reason to suppose that their demand on the question of the suffrage was in a fair way of being accepted. But he reminded them that at their third sitting, when the right to propose modifications in the laws had been granted them, that right had been coupled with the condition that the vote proposing such modifications must unite the suffrages of three-quarters of the Assembly before it could be forwarded to the Porte. This announcement took the Delegates by surprize, and they declared that no such limitation had been made to the concession. An unseemly altercation then ensued, which had not the effect of settling the point in dispute.

The Delegates then proceeded to demand that in future the Governor-General of Crete should be a Christian and appointed for a period of five years. (I had endeavoured to dissuade them from bringing on the discussion of this question thus early in the hope that it might be arranged at Constantinople, but I understand the Commissioner brought up the subject himself.) His Excellency made no difficulty about granting the latter half of the demand, but absolutely set his face against conceding the former. The Delegates resolutely persisting in their demand, the meeting separated without any result being arrived at.

After the sitting his Excellency the Commissioner came to see me, and related what had taken place. He said that when at the third meeting the right of proposing changes in the laws had been granted the General Assembly, he had restricted that right by requiring that three-fourths of the members should unite their votes for any particular measures, but it appeared that that limitation had not been entered in the minutes of proceedings kept by the Delegates, who declared that it had never been seriously proposed nor submitted for discussion. As the power thus accorded to the future Assembly was one of great importance, his Excellency begged me to try to induce the Delegates to agree to its limitation, which I undertook to do. He was also more anxious still that I should endeavour to dissuade them from requiring that Crete should always be administered by a Christian Governor-General, as the Porte would never consent to such a proposal. While engaging to do my best to induce the Delegates to desist from urging this particular demand, I frankly told his Excellency that I was not sanguine of success.

After his Excellency had left me, three of the Delegates came to report to me what had taken place at the sitting just closed. They said that when the Imperial Commissioner told them that it required a three-quarters vote of the General Assembly before a proposal recommending a modification in a law could be submitted to the Porte, they were absolutely taken aback, no such condition having been agreed to.

They remembered that Salim Effendi had thrown out a hint of the kind, but it had never been submitted for discussion, or even entered in the minutes of proceedings. On the Turkish Protocollista being appealed to, he confessed not to have heard the subject broached, and if it appeared in the minutes kept by him, it was because Salim Effendi had told him to insert it after the meeting was over. His Excellency Costaki Pasha, who had been present at that meeting, previously disclaimed to the Commissioner any knowledge of the subject. For my own part, I may say that neither in conversation with Ghazi Mukhtar Pasha nor with the Delegates has any mention been made of any restriction of the kind. It was evident that there had been underhand dealing, undertaken for the purpose of rendering valueless the concession that had been made; and while willing to acquit his Excellency the Commissioner of any participation in the fraud, I must look upon Salim Effendi as responsible for it. The subject has been the cause of much indignation, and has ruined the character of the Commission for plain dealing.

When I represented to the Delegates that in so serious a matter as the modifying of laws it would be well that some security, such as a three-quarter or a two-third vote, should be provided against the introduction of measures injurious to the interests of Mussulmans, they pointed out to me that past experience justified them in believing that they could never induce any Mussulmans to vote with them even for measures conducive to the general good, for that it but sufficed for Hamid Bey or others of that clique to tell them that the measure contemplated was opposed to the Government (or may be the Koran), and they would vote against it. There was surely, they said, sufficient security that the Mussulmans would not be injured in their interests by the proviso that no Bill could become law without the authorization of the Porte. I confess myself convinced with this reasoning; and it is evident that the extension of Christian representation in the Assembly will be nugatory if hampered with the restrictions sought to be imposed on it. What the Commissioner is giving with one hand he is taking away with the other.

With reference to the demand that the future Governors-General of Crete should belong to their own particular rite, I told them that although I believed many advantages would accrue to the country from its being administered by a Christian Governor conversant with the language spoken by the entire population and with the management of affairs, I was by no means persuaded that the principle they sought to establish was a good one, and although they were to be congratulated if they could obtain the nomination of a Governor-General like Costaki Pasha, they might well be visited with an incapable one.

They replied that their objections to a Turkish Vali could be thus summed up: they were always military men, mostly universed in the knowledge required for the administration of civil affairs, and they were almost invariably ignorant of the language of the country, and thus dependent on others for information—those others being necessarily Mussulmans, inasmuch as they alone speak both Greek and Turkish. They contrasted the condition of the Provinces of Sphakia and Lasethe, where Christian Mutessarifs had ruled with those under the sway of Turkish Governors, the advantage being all in favour of the former, where Costaki and Irikolaki Pashas had left traces of their work. The administration of Crete during the last ten years had sufficed to show that their Turkish Valis had not been animated with a spirit of improvement, and their country had in consequence steadily declined in prosperity. They concluded by begging me to use what influence I might possess in obtaining for them the appointment of a good Christian Governor-General who would give satisfaction to the entire community.

In my various interviews with the Cretans I have had no difficulty in perceiving that if there are insuperable difficulties in the way of the appointment of Costaki Pasha, the choice of Irikolaki Pasha Sartinski would meet with entire approval.

I did not encourage my hearers to hope that their demand would be acceded to, but I could not but see that they will be bitterly disappointed and dissatisfied if their wishes in this respect are not heeded. From my own observation I have remarked that the Turkish Generals who have been sent to administer the affairs of this island have been far more intent on the building of fortifications and on matters of a purely military interest than in attending to the material wants of the country.

The Delegates not being willing to give up their demand for the nomination of a Christian Governor, I signified to them that I could do no more in the matter, but must refer this request to your Excellency. I have therefore the honour of forwarding you this telegram:—

"The Christian Delegates having demanded the appointment of a Christian Governor, which the Commissioner has refused, they beg me to appeal to your Excellency's mediation to obtain their demand."

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 48.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 775.)
My Lord, *Paris, October 2, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a note in which, in obedience to the instruction contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 633 of the day before yesterday, I have informed the French Government of the intention of Her Majesty's Government to send Mr. E. F. Harrison to Constantinople to investigate the resources at the command of the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 48.

Lord Lyons to M. Waddington.

M. le Ministre, *Paris, October 2, 1878.*

WITH reference to the communications which have taken place between your Excellency and Mr. Adams, I have the honour to inform you that Her Majesty's Government propose to send a financier of experience to Constantinople to investigate the resources at the command of the Porte, and that they have selected for this mission Mr. E. F. Harrison, Comptroller-General at Calcutta.

If the French Government decide also upon commissioning a gentleman to undertake a similar inquiry, Mr. Harrison will be happy to communicate with him and co-operate with him. Her Majesty's Government consider, however, that in any case it would be undesirable that the joint action in this matter should go beyond France and England, as the efficiency of the inquiry would be materially affected by the appointment of a large number of Commissioners.

I am further instructed to explain to your Excellency that if the Commission to which the Porte has proposed to invite a French and English member should be brought into effective operation, Her Majesty's Government propose to appoint Mr. Harrison as the English member of that Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 49.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 776. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, October 2, 1878.*

M. CHARLES MALLET, one of the principal bankers in Paris, came to me this morning, and told me that M. Zarifi, a Constantinople banker of great respectability, who is believed to enjoy the special confidence of the Sultan, was now in Paris, and was endeavouring to obtain an advance of money, for the purpose of redeeming the Ottoman paper money.

The plan put forward by M. Zarifi was, M. Mallet said, that French and English capitalists should advance a sum of about 600,000*l.* to the Porte, on the security of certain specific branches of the revenue of Turkey.

M. Mallet added that he had told M. Zarifi that it would be utterly vain to attempt to raise money for the Porte either in the Paris or the London market unless the English or French Government was willing, in some mode or other, to give an assurance that the engagements made by the Porte respecting the interest, &c., would be punctually fulfilled.

M. Mallet proceeded to observe that it was plain that the first step towards introducing order into the Turkish finances must be to put a stop to the enormous depreciation of the caimés; and he asked whether I thought that, with a view to obtaining

this object, Her Majesty's Government would be disposed to render M. Zarifi's plan feasible, by taking some means of insuring the observance by the Porte of the terms proposed.

I said that Her Majesty's Government undoubtedly took a great interest in the finances of Turkey, and that it was not improbable that, after a careful investigation of the general condition of those finances, they might offer advice to the Porte on the financial measures to be adopted. It was also, I observed, probable that the British and French Governments might act in concert in the matter. But I added that I thought it very unlikely that Her Majesty's Government would step forward at this moment in order to promote an isolated scheme like that of M. Zarifi.

I proceeded to ask M. Mallet whether M. Zarifi was duly authorized by the Porte to negotiate with French and English capitalists.

M. Mallet answered, that M. Zarifi did not profess to have any official mission from the Porte, but that he gave it to be understood that any arrangements he might enter into would certainly be sanctioned at Constantinople.

M. Mallet went on to observe that if the English or French Government, or both Governments, were seriously occupying themselves with the state of the Turkish finances, it might be very inconvenient that such schemes as that of M. Zarifi should be brought forward; and he suggested that it might be desirable that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople should be informed without delay of the steps taken by M. Zarifi at Paris.

I have deemed it right to report at once to your Lordship what M. Mallet said, in order that you may judge whether it will be advisable to communicate it to Sir Henry Layard.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 50.

Sir M. Montefiore and Baron de Worms to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 3.)

London, October 1, 1878.

My Lord,

WE have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's letter of the 18th instant, informing us that Her Majesty's Government had recently received from the Government of Roumania a positive assurance of their intention to carry out fully, to the best of their power, all the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin, whether as regards Jewish disabilities in Roumania or other questions.

We feel deeply grateful to your Lordship for your kind and prompt attention to our letter. We would beg, however, to invite your Lordship's attention to the qualifying words contained in the assurance given by the Roumanian Government, which imply that they intend to carry out the provisions of the Treaty "to the best of their power," and we confidently hope that Her Majesty's Government, impelled by the same high motives of humanity and justice by which their policy has been uniformly guided throughout these negotiations, will require that the provisions of the Treaty affecting the Jews of Roumania be carried out in their integrity.

We have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MONTEFIORE, *President of the London Committee of Deputies of the British Jews.*
HENRY DE WORMS, *President of the Anglo-Jewish Association.*

No. 51.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 3.)

(No. 889.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 2, 1878.

VICE-CONSUL at Philippopolis telegraphs following, dated to-day:—

"Number of petitions have been received from Bulgarian villages in Rhodope asking for Petco's release. Bulgarian Archbishop has also interceded for him. I hear he will be released to-day. It is said that Russian officers who captured him acted without orders, and that their conduct has been disapproved by Prince Dondoukoff.

No. 52.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 3.)

(No. 890.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 2, 1878.

FOLLOWING telegram has been received from Vice-Consul at Philippopolis, dated 1st October:—

"Messengers have arrived from Chitak, a large village in Rhodope, inhabited by Bulgarians chiefly, and they announced that Turks entered the village on Saturday night, and massacred many of the inhabitants."

No. 53.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 3.)

(No. 891. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 2, 1878.

WITH reference to your telegrams of yesterday, I think that I have succeeded in putting a stop to the Circular proposed by the Sultan. It is true, I believe, that Musurus Pasha advised the Sultan to refuse the Convention. I am not satisfied with Musurus Pasha's language on this subject and on our demands for reforms, and I have told him so. It may do much mischief.

No. 54.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 3.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, October* 3, 1878.

WITH reference to my telegram of the 29th, I have to report that so far Sultan has not replied to Prince Milan, but favourable answer by telegraph received from Grand Vizier, who gives very friendly assurances of Porte's readiness to renew relations.

M. Christic will probably at once return to Constantinople as Servian Diplomatic Agent.

Above communicated to Sir H. Layard.

No. 55.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond-Wolff.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 3, 1878, 3·35 P.M.

IT does not appear that appointment of German Commissioner or of Russian Assistant-Commissioner has been communicated to Her Majesty's Government.

No. 56.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 3, 1878, 5·15 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 887, I am anxious to get Rustem Pasha nominated and accepted by the Powers. It is not necessary he should take up his office at once. Whether he should do so cannot be determined until the question who is to exercise intermediate jurisdiction has been decided. But it is important he should be appointed now, in case of Commission breaking down altogether. I am apprehensive that if this should happen Russians may find objections to every candidate proposed as Governor, and then may make the absence of any machinery of Government an excuse for not evacuating.

No. 57.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

Foreign Office, October 3, 1878, 5·45 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram No. 879 respecting Article of draft Treaty, it appears to me that the whole Agreement would be more suitably deferred till the time comes when Russia has evacuated all the territories of the Porte. But in this matter Her Majesty's Government can only speak as councillors not as party interested. They could not admit any rights of theirs were affected by such an Agreement. It will be as well confidentially to remind Safvet Pasha that if at any time any money should be advanced from any quarter to the Porte for the purpose of retiring paper-money, the first condition insisted on would necessarily be that the interest on such advance should take precedence of all other liabilities.

No. 58.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

Foreign Office, October 3, 1878, 7·15 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram No. 873. According to a statement furnished by Mr. Bouverie, the revenues of Cyprus are hypothecated to the Loan of 1860 of 2,000,000*l.*, on which more than 250,000 coupons are unpaid, and which is chiefly held in France.

Also in general terms they are hypothecated to the 8,000,000*l.* Loan of 1863-64.

No. 59.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord A. Loftus.

Foreign Office, October 3, 1878, 7·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

YOU should support request mentioned in Sir H. Layard's telegram No. 874 repeated to you this day.

No. 60.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1196.)

Foreign Office, October 3, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE telegraphed to your Excellency in reply to the request made by Safvet Pasha (as reported in your telegram No. 879 of the 30th ultimo) for advice as regards the Article in the draft Treaty proposed by the Russian Ambassador which relates to the payment of a war-indemnity by Turkey to Russia.

It appears to me that the negotiation and conclusion of the entire Treaty would be more opportune if deferred till the time when the Russian forces have been withdrawn from Turkish territory. In this matter, however, Her Majesty's Government can only speak in the way of offering friendly counsel to the Porte, and not as parties directly interested in the issue. They could not admit that any international rights accruing to this country can be affected by a one-sided agreement between Turkey and Russia.

It might be desirable to remind the Grand Vizier that if at any time a loan or advance should be made to the Porte from any quarter to enable it to withdraw its paper currency, it would certainly be insisted on as a first condition that the interest on such advance should take precedence of any other liabilities.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 61.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1198.)

Foreign Office, October 3, 1878.

Sir,

I GATHER from your telegram of the 30th ultimo that the Porte are anxious that Her Majesty's Government should publicly record their readiness to pay

into the hands of Delegates, to be named by the Ottoman Government, the surplus revenues of Cyprus, which, under the Convention of the 4th June, are to be paid to that Government, and that the Grand Vizier is of opinion that Turkey would thereby be enabled to raise a loan on reasonable terms upon these revenues.

I have informed your Excellency in reply that according to a general statement of the condition of the Turkish debt, which has been communicated to me by Mr. Bouverie, it appears that the revenues of Cyprus are hypothecated to the loan of 2,000,000*l.* issued in 1860, on which more than 250,000 coupons are unpaid, and which is chiefly held in France.

I understand also that they are included in the general hypothecation of the revenues of the Turkish Empire to the 8,000,000*l.* loan of 1863-64.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 62.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1200.)

Foreign Office, October 3, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE received a telegram from your Excellency dated the 30th instant, in which you inform me that, although the Grand Vizier is prepared to recommend to the Sultan the nomination of Rustem Pasha as Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia, His Highness is apprehensive that were he to proceed there at once the Russian authorities might put him aside, and place him in a position which would be derogatory to his dignity and to that of the Porte.

With reference to the Grand Vizier's wish for my opinion upon this point, I have informed your Excellency by telegraph that I consider it highly important that no delay should take place in the nomination of Rustem Pasha and in obtaining his recognition by the other Powers.

The nomination of the Governor does not necessarily entail that he should at once take up his office. Whether he should do so or not cannot be determined until a decision has been arrived at with regard to the authority with which the administration of the province shall rest pending the completion and promulgation of the scheme for its organization.

It is necessary to keep in view the possible contingency of differences arising in the European Commission which shall altogether paralyze its action, in which case it is to be feared that objections may be raised by the Russian Government to every candidate proposed for the appointment of Governor-General, and that they may then put forward the absence of any machinery of Government as a pretext for delaying the withdrawal of their troops beyond the time stipulated by the Treaty.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 63.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 509. Secret and Confidential.)

Foreign Office, October 3, 1878.

Sir,

COUNT DEYM states that he has received information from Vienna to the following effect:—

Count Zichy has reported from Constantinople that Prince Lobanoff, before his departure, informed him that Munif Effendi, the Minister of Public Instruction, had received orders from the Sultan, at the instigation of England, to draw up a Memorandum on the Asiatic question.

Prince Lobanoff had asserted that he had succeeded in obtaining for transmission to St. Petersburgh a copy of the Memorandum; and he had communicated its contents confidentially to Count Zichy, who stated that the general idea developed in it was the creation of a confederation of the Mussulmans of Asia under the Sultan as Caliph.

To open the ground for working this idea the Sultan was said to have decided on sending a Mission to Cabul, and on endeavouring by the employment as Envoy of a

trustworthy person to gain the Ameer over to the project, and so to counteract the influence of Russia; the person selected, Saïd Reschid Effendi, was said to have already left Constantinople on his Mission.

Prince Labanoff was stated to have attached great importance to the action of this country with the Sultan in face of the present state of affairs at Cabul.

Count Zichy appears to have reported that the news from Afghanistan had caused a complete panic at Constantinople.

Count Deym requested that the above information might be considered strictly confidential: I have undertaken that it shall be considered in this light, at the same time thanking him cordially for having communicated it to me.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 64.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 510.)
Foreign Office, October 3, 1878.

Sir,

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 671 of the 19th ultimo, I have to request you to inform Count Andrassy that Her Majesty's Government do not agree with him in thinking that a collective step should be taken by the Powers at Constantinople with the view of calling on the Porte to proceed at once to the evacuation of Podgoritza.

They doubt the expediency of a collective note, which might have an appearance of threatening the use of material force, whereas it is not the intention either of Her Majesty's Government or that of Austria-Hungary to use pressure of that kind.

The presentation of a collective note suggesting the immediate surrender of the fortress, but not supported by coercive measures sufficient to secure the adoption of the advice, would, under the circumstances of the present moment, be misleading, and might hereafter expose the Governments joining in it to the reproaches of the friends of the Montenegrins, nor would representations on the subject made collectively carry with them more weight than if they were made separately.

Separate representations have, as Count Andrassy is aware, been made by Her Majesty's Ambassador, couched in terms of great earnestness, and he may be well assured that the English Government will not desist from pressing upon the Porte the importance of executing the cessions which have been stipulated by Treaty.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 65.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 511.)
Foreign Office, October 3, 1878.

Sir,

A STUDY of the various official Reports which have been received since the advance of the Austrian troops into Bosnia and Herzegovina leaves little doubt that the policy of the Commander-in-chief has been harsh towards the Mussulman population. Major Gosset's despatches, indeed, show that the rumours of the perpetrations of wanton outrages by the subordinate officers and the troops under their command are, so far as his observation goes, altogether without foundation, and he has borne testimony to the humane character of the operations of the forces with which he has come in contact; but this does not alter the fact, which seems to be admitted on all hands, that the course adopted at head-quarters is one of severity towards the Mussulmans.

Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Bosna-Serai, who is well-acquainted with the feelings of the population of Bosnia, reports that no Mussulman feels safe, and that numbers who were made to take part in the resistance against Austria are afraid to return to their homes; and he expresses his conviction, that unless some steps are taken to conciliate the Moslem population, and gain their good-will, which is being rapidly alienated, the Austrian Government will have interminable difficulty in restoring order and tranquillity.

On the other hand, Sir H. Layard states that the reports which have reached the Sultan of the oppressive measures which are being adopted, and which have doubtless

not been toned down before being communicated to His Majesty, have produced upon him the most painful impression, and have made it almost hopeless to expect that he will enter into a friendly understanding with Austria respecting the occupation of the provinces until he shall be convinced that his co-religionists are being treated in such a way as to make them contented with their new rulers.

On every ground it would appear to be advisable that the Mussulmans should be treated with leniency, and should be conciliated. Such a course would not only facilitate the task which the Austrians have undertaken, but it would probably do much to quiet the dangerous agitation among the Albanians, from which serious consequences are to be apprehended. Any measures that would lead to the willing acceptance of Austrian rule in the provinces would manifestly tend to hasten the execution of the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin in the neighbouring territories.

I should wish these considerations to be present to your Excellency's mind when you are speaking with Count Andrassy upon this subject, and that you should take every suitable opportunity to use such arguments as will in your judgment be likely to dispose him to insist on a more lenient and considerate treatment of the populations among whom the recent operations have been conducted.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 66.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 528.)
Foreign Office, October 3, 1878.

My Lord,

HER Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople has reported that, at the request of the Grand Vizier, Prince Labanoff had promised to use his influence to induce the Emperor of Russia to recommend to Servia that she should renounce Vranja, which is ceded to her by Article XXXVI of the Treaty of Berlin, for a pecuniary or other consideration, as might be arranged with the Ottoman Government.

The Grand Vizier had expressed the hope that this proposition might receive the support of Her Majesty's Government, and I have this day authorized your Excellency by telegraph to endeavour to further His Highness' wishes in this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 67.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond-Wolff.

(No. 38.)
Foreign Office, October 3, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 30 of the 15th ultimo, and have taken steps to consult Colonel Home and Major Gordon, Her Majesty's Commissioners for the demarcation of the frontiers of Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia, as to the feasibility of the suggestion made therein for obtaining, by means of the Commissions, a complete map of the latter province, and a census of the population.

You may possibly yourself be able to communicate with those officers as to the practical details of such an undertaking.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 68.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond-Wolff.

(No. 40.)
Foreign Office, October 3, 1878.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 17 of the 10th ultimo, I transmit herewith, for your information, copies of the despatches relative to the construction placed by the Italian and German Governments on the fourth paragraph of Article XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 69.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond-Wolff.

(No. 42.)
Foreign Office, October 3, 1878.

Sir,

I INFORMED you this day by telegraph that no communication has been made to Her Majesty's Government of the appointment under Article XVIII of the Treaty of Berlin of a German Commissioner, or of a Russian Assistant Commissioner, as members of the European Commission for the organization of Eastern Roumelia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 70.

Sir J. Pauncefote to Major Gordon.

(No. 5.)
Foreign Office, October 3, 1878.

Sir,

YOU will address your despatches to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in a regular numbered series, docketting them according to forms observed in this Office, as laid down in the accompanying Circular.

You will either forward your despatches under flying seal to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, or, in cases where this is likely to cause delay, you will furnish Sir H. Layard with copies of them.

You will also take such measures as you may find most convenient to keep Colonel Home informed from time to time of the proceedings of the Commission of which you are a member.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 71.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Colonel Home.**

(No. 16.)
Foreign Office, October 3, 1878.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT to you herewith copy of a despatch from Sir H. Drummond-Wolff suggesting that the Commissions for the demarcation of the boundaries of Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia might with great advantage be charged with the preparation of a map of the latter province and with taking a census of the population.

I am desirous of having your opinion as to the feasibility of this plan, as to the expense it would entail, and the time it would be likely to take.

I have addressed a similar despatch to Major Gordon, and I have also suggested to Sir H. Drummond-Wolff that he might be able to communicate with you as to the practical details of such an undertaking.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 71*.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Colonel Home.

(No. 17.)
Foreign Office, October 3, 1878.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT to you herewith copies of the instructions which I have addressed to Major R. W. T. Gordon for his guidance in the discharge of his duties as Her Majesty's Commissioner for the demarcation of the southern and western frontiers of Eastern Roumelia.†

You will observe that Major Gordon has been instructed to refer to you in regard to any questions of importance that may arise, and to be guided by your advice and instructions.

He has also been directed to take such measures as he may find most convenient to keep you informed from time to time of the proceedings of the Commission.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

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* A similar despatch was addressed to Major Gordon.

† Nos. 69 and 70.

No. 72.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Major Wilson.

(No. 7.)
Foreign Office, October 3, 1878.

Sir,

IN the event of the Commission of which you are a member passing in the neighbourhood of assemblies of the Albanian League or of Bosnian insurgents, it is possible that the Chiefs of the movement may attempt to enter into communication with you and to obtain an interview.

It will be your duty to decline any applications of this nature, on the ground that any political questions except the delimitation of the boundary in accordance with the Treaty are foreign to the mission with which you are charged.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 73.

Consul Lyall to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 31. Consular.)
Tiflis, September 12, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that I have just returned from travelling viâ Borjom and Akhaltsikh across the mountains to Kutais, from which place I proceeded by railway to Poti, and thence rode on horseback again viâ Nicolaieff to Ozurgèt, and from there through the Gouriel Valley viâ Orpiri to Kutais.

The Prince Mirsky, Military Governor of the Caucasus, is at present at Batoum, with a large staff of officers and a numerous following of the native nobility. Batoum has been peaceably occupied by the Russian forces.

Such of the Laz and Kabouletz Chiefs and their militia as refuse to remain under Russian Rule have crossed the Tchouruk. It is reported that money has been freely applied to induce such of them as consent to remain to lay down their arms.

The army of the Rion is still kept on a war footing; piquets of Cossacks are out all along the frontier line, and along the direct road across the mountains between Kutais and Akhaltsikh. This road, originally a mere bridle path, is now being made into a fine carriage road, practicable for artillery, at considerable expense.

A line of railway is projected from Batoum viâ the Akhaltsikh and Borjom Valley, to meet the Poti-Tiflis line at Mikhailoff, and the levels are being taken by a staff of Russian engineers. The reason of their choice of this route, which will involve considerable expense (though not so much as has been supposed, the country being not so difficult as generally imagined, is that they fear that a line constructed along or near the seaboard would be indefensible in case of war. The harvest has been extremely abundant, but provisions are still dear, the prices being kept up by war rumours. Great abuse of the English and their policy goes on in all the local prints.

Considerable discontent, however, exists among the officers of the Rion army, who were led to believe that they would receive a year's pay at the conclusion of the war, which donation, as they have been generally unsuccessful, has been withheld. Numerous veteran captains, commanding companies, have been lately superseded by young men without experience, but with interest, which is also a grievance.

All the local militia corps raised before the war are to be kept going, and will form part of the new conscription to be levied among the natives of the Caucasus.

Such corps as were levied subsequently to the commencement of the war are to be disbanded, or rather, to be dismissed to their homes for two years.

Arrangements are being made on the Poti and Tiflis Railway for the transport of two divisions of regular troops—about 40,000 men, to Poti *en route* to Odessa, but these will not move until Batoum has been securely occupied and the lately acquired territory settled for good. No civilians, Russian subjects or otherwise, are as yet permitted to proceed to Batoum on business, and it is announced that, when this is allowed, they will be required to be provided with passports the same as if they were about to reside in foreign territory.

A large number of soldiers are camped at different points along the road leading from the Poti-Tiflis Railway at Samtredo to Ozurgèt. They are throughly recon-

structing this road, which is now a regular military route. A fine pile bridge is now nearly finished across the Rion at Orpiri.

I have reliable information that a force consisting of 24 battalions of infantry and 6 batteries of artillery (or a full division) has been dispatched from Krasnovodsk on the Caspian, along the Atrek, between Tekke and Khiva in the direction of Merv.

The Erimbourg Cossack regiment, and the Astrakhan infantry regiment, left Tiflis a few days ago *en route* for Baku, on the Caspian: the officers gave out that "they were going home," *i.e.*, to the districts where the corps are raised, but it is quite possible that their destination is the same as the above.

I am also informed that the border Cossack corps, over a very large extent of the Turko-Persian frontier, from Akhalkilak to Ordubat, near Djulfa, have been warned to be ready to march towards the east, besides scattered corps from Elizavetpol, Nouka, &c.

It is possible that these corps, united, will form the cavalry of some important expedition, and the division above mentioned, which is advancing along the Atrek, will prepare forage for them.

The Cossacks say that they are to go to their homes in the Wladikavkas Steppes, but the direct route that way would be through Tiflis, and not towards the Caspian.

I hear that the Russian troops began to evacuate Erzeroum on the 11th. They are, I understand, about to establish a quartier-général at Kirkhanish, on the road to Kars, over the Taghanly, between Ziberf and Erzeroum.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER TSCHUDI LYALL.

No. 74.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 482. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Athens, September* 17, 1878.

AN order has been issued by the Minister of War for all officers and soldiers on leave to join their regiments.

In answer to an inquiry which I addressed to M. Delyanni as to the reason for this measure, his Excellency told me that, as the vintage was completed, the presence of these men was no longer required in the districts to which they belonged, and it was desirable that they should not, by prolonged absence from their corps, lose their discipline. As, however, leave was granted some time back to these men on the ostensible ground of the pacific disposition of the Greek Government, there can be no doubt that their recall to their regiments has been prescribed in order that the army should be better able to take the field in case the demand lately made by Greece for the mediation of the Great Powers should not have the effect of extending the frontiers in the sense proposed by the Congress of Berlin, or in the event of the acquisition of the coveted territory, that it should be at once in a position to occupy the country, and put down local Mussulman opposition

In connection with this subject, I may mention that I have ascertained that the Greek Cabinet has for the last few days been deliberating on a scheme to raise the active army, now consisting of about 30,000 men, to 40,000, with a reserve of 35,000, and I have reason to believe that the King is favourable to this project, if he has not originated it.

Public opinion at this moment is tranquil, and the country is disposed to wait with patience the result of the appeal to the Governments who are parties to the Treaty of Berlin; but should this not produce the hoped-for result, I have little doubt that this country will endeavour to obtain by force what, it is considered, they have a right to under the terms of the Berlin Treaty. However hopeless and dangerous to Greece the prospect of a war with Turkey may be, the pressure of public opinion will force the Government to undertake it, the feeling being general that, in the event of reverses, the protecting Powers will step forward to prevent the Porte from crushing Greece, and to preserve her from the consequences of her temerity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 75.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 1163.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 21, 1878.

I INQUIRED of Safvet Pasha this morning whether he had yet named a Representative to the Roumanian Government, as I had privately learnt that M. Demetri Bratiano would probably be appointed Roumanian Minister at the Porte. I represented to his Highness the importance to Turkey of maintaining the most friendly relations with Roumania, and I suggested that it would be desirable for the Porte not to be behind hand in establishing them, but to send as soon as possible a suitable person as its Representative to Bucharest.

Safvet Pasha replied that a Turkish Representative had not yet been named to Roumania, but that he was sincerely desirous of cultivating the most cordial and intimate relations with that Principality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 76.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 1164.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 21, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1,153 of the 19th instant, inclosing extracts from a private letter relating to events in the Armenian district of Geghi, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of a letter addressed to me by Mr. Matheosian, the "Vekil," or head of the Protestant community, and himself an Armenian. It is satisfactory to find, by the statements it contains, that the promise given to me by Safvet Pasha that measures should be taken to protect, and insure justice to, the Christians of Geghi, has been fulfilled. I shall bring the misconduct of the Turkish soldiers in helping themselves to provisions in the bazaar of Kasala to the notice of his Highness.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 76.

M. Matheosian to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Constantinople, September* 20, 1878.

I HAVE the pleasure of announcing to your Excellency the removal from office of Kaïmakam Ismaïl Bey, of Geglii, who for a long time had been the scourge of that district. The new Kaïmakam, Suleymun Bey, of Terjan, seems to be an honest man, and with the Cadi and Osman Effendi, who has the office of investigating the doings of the Beys, is supporting the cause of the people against their oppressors. The Beys begin to feel that their influence is failing, and the poor people, encouraged by these officers, are bringing forward their complaints against their cruel oppressors. The release of Hastlian Haji Suleymun Aga has rejoiced the hearts of all class. This man, your Excellency may recollect, was, some months ago, sent to Erzingian under guard for daring to advocate the cause of the people against the Beys.

This joy, however, was soon marred by the arrival of some Arab battalions from Bagdad destined for Dersum. These men soon after pitching their tents around Korsaba, spread themselves over the bazaar, and helped themselves to whatever they liked, in spite of the efforts of the Kaïmakam and officers. The soldiers indulged themselves in all sorts of debauchery. The villagers would not bring in provision for fear of their animals being taken for the service of the army

Another disaster, which has just fallen upon that district, is the kumul, a species of insect very much smaller than the locust, but no less destructive to crops, and many persons are preparing to emigrate from Kasaba. Ninety-five okes of wheat sell

at Kasaba money for 300 piastres now at the harvest time, what the future may be it is easy to judge.

We wish hereby gratefully to acknowledge your Excellency's kind efforts for the poor inhabitants of Geghi, and success in getting Ismail Bey removed from office, which we regard as a great boon to the long oppressed population of that district.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HAGOP MATHEOSIAN,
Vekil of the Protestant Community.

No. 77.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 1166.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 22, 1878.*

I HAVE spoken to several Turkish and Christian functionaries, military and civil, acquainted with Albania as to the determination of the Albanians to resist the decisions of the Congress of Berlin with regard to the new frontiers to be assigned to Servia and Montenegro. They attribute it mainly to the fact that the Congress not having been made sufficiently acquainted with the country with which it was dealing, assigned to those Principalities territory for which they did not even ask, and which is exclusively inhabited by Albanians. Thus Gusinje was given to Montenegro and Vranja to Servia, whilst, if it were considered necessary to enlarge the two Principalities, it might have been done by making over to the former territory in the Herzegovina inhabited by Slavs of the Montenegrin race, and to the latter territory inhabited by Servians, who, against their will, have been handed over to Bulgaria. It would appear from the Protocols that Mehemet Ali Pasha had pointed out the inexpediency and danger of thus placing exclusively Albanian districts under Christian rule; but it is said that the President of the Congress peremptorily refused to allow him to give any explanations, or to make any remonstrances on the subject.

The statements that have been made to me appear to be confirmed by Baron Orczy, who is reported by Sir Henry Elliot in his despatch to your Lordship No. 603 of the 22nd ultimo, to have said that "similar and greater difficulties (referring to those relating to the surrender of Podgoritza) were to be expected with regard to the district of Gusinje, which the Treaty assigned to Montenegro, for it was exclusively inhabited by Albanians, chiefly Mussulmans, and had never been conquered by the Montenegrins." "Baron Orczy," Sir Henry Elliot adds, "has little expectation that these people will submit quietly to be handed over to their traditional enemies."

It is not improbable that the two districts to which I have referred were purposely assigned to Servia and Montenegro by Russia in order that they might be a source of constant disquietude and disorder.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 78.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 1167.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 23, 1878.*

I RECEIVED late last night a letter from the Russian Ambassador (copy inclosed) informing me that the Imperial army having that day quitted the positions it had occupied before Constantinople, he brought the fact to my notice, in view of the arrangement come to between the Government of His Majesty the Emperor and that of Her Majesty for the simultaneous withdrawal of the Russian army and British fleet.

I have communicated Prince Labanoff's letter to Admiral Sir Geoffry Hornby, and have suggested to him, at the same time, that it would be desirable for him to make preparations for leaving his present anchorage.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 78.

Prince Labanoff to Sir A. H. Layard.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Büiuk-Dereh, le 11/23 Septembre, 1878.*

L'ARMÉE Impériale ayant quitté aujourd'hui, 11/23 Septembre, les positions qu'elle occupait devant Constantinople, je me fais un devoir de porter ce fait à la connaissance de votre Excellence, en vue des arrangements convenus entre le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté l'Empereur et celui de Sa Majesté Britannique pour la retraite simultanée de l'armée Russe et de la flotte Anglaise.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) LABANOFF.

No. 79.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 1168.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 23, 1878.*

IT having come to my knowledge that the Porte proposed to place only one Armenian member on the Tribunal which is about to be formed at Erzeroum to deal peremptorily with crimes and offences against life and property in the province on the retreat of the Russian army, and especially for the protection of the Christians, I made a representation on the subject to Safvet Pasha, who at once agreed that two Christians should be named to the Tribunal in question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 80.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 1169.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 23, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose extracts from an interesting private letter addressed to me by Acting Consul Calvert with respect to the condition of the Mussulman refugees in the province and town of Adrianople.

It is to be hoped that something will be done for these unfortunate people before the winter comes on to save them from perishing from cold and hunger.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 80.

Acting Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Private.)
(Extract.) *Adrianople, September 4, 1878.*

I AM happy to say that the report which has reached your Excellency as to the number and the condition of the refugees near this place is a gross exaggeration, I might say invention.

It is true that owing to the want of proper concert between those charged with the work of supervision at Constantinople and at this place there was now and then, especially at the beginning, an agglomeration of refugees at the railway station, and a certain number may be seen any day bivouacked in the fields around, awaiting conveyance to their homes by rail. But all are sent forward a few days sooner or later.

At the same time the general question of the refugees now being repatriated is one which claims earnest attention, and I have, since my return here, been trying to obtain reliable materials for a report on the subject. My success, however, as regards the rural districts, has been very partial, and, unless your Excellency will authorize me to undertake that task myself, I would beg leave to suggest the advisability of

some trustworthy person being sent to the various districts to collect information on the spot, for I have come to the conclusion that it is only possible by that means to ascertain the condition of these unfortunate people. Their lot appears to differ in different places.

As regards the state of things in this town, the number of refugees—men, women and children—receiving relief up to the time when repatriation commenced, was 38,000. Of this number about half have now left for their homes. During their stay here, except for about a fortnight in June, the refugees have been in the receipt of rations from the Russian authorities. These rations have varied in kind and quantity. At first wheat and maize was distributed, then maize and oats, and latterly oats alone, at the rate of two okes a-head per week. Although the grain is delivered unground, no great complaints have been made on that head. It must also be mentioned that the presence of the Russian troops in the town having given a stimulus to commerce, the refugees have for the most part found the means of eking out a subsistence by driving small trades. There have been numerous complaints, however, as to short rations, and Mr Cumara, who took up this matter a short while ago, conjointly with Colonel Kurz, a benevolent Russian officer, informs me that he has obtained proof of peculation on the part of the persons entrusted with the work of distribution; but it is satisfactory to know that a stop has been put to this, and that every Muhadjir now receives full rations, of however poor quality.

Between the 6th April and the 14th August, 12,000 refugees (of whom 2,000 to 3,000 from Constantinople) had left this on their return to their homes in the districts lying towards Philippopolis and Tatar-Bazardjik. On the latter date permits of repatriation began to be delivered also to the inhabitants of the Balkan districts, Yamboli, Slimnia, Eski-Zaghra, Yeni-Zaghra, Kysanlik, &c., and great numbers have left and are leaving for those places.

The Mufti and his Adjutant, Major Akif Aga, both tell me that they have absolutely no information regarding any of the refugees subsequent to their departure from Adrianople.

I have been able, however, to obtain from a reliable source the following particulars regarding the returned inhabitants of Yeni-Zaghra. Through some mismanagement the first batch of refugees arrived their direct from Constantinople, without stopping to take out passports here. They were consequently not allowed to enter Yeni-Zaghra, and for some days were exposed to great privations. The latest accounts received, however, state that all are now housed in the town or in their native villages, and are receiving rations. On the other hand, a Bulgarian, arrived from those parts to-day, states that many of the refugees are being arrested, especially at Djumanli and Tchellekdji, on charges brought by Christians, and that the prison at Yeni-Zaghra being full, some of the accused have had to be sent to Slimnia for imprisonment.

At Papasly, a village not far from the station of that name on the Philippopolis line, the refugees have been plundered, and their women subjected to outrages by the Bulgarians, who have, moreover, destroyed their houses. Most of the refugees are reported to have dispersed in consequence.

Mr. F. Calvert informs me that his French colleague, M. Boyssot, has told him that, on his return from Constantinople lately, he saw with his own eyes outrages being committed on Turkish females by Russian soldiers and Bulgarians near this same station of Papasly.

In conclusion, I would beg leave to repeat that it appears to me very desirable that special attention be given at once to the whole subject of the refugees. So long as the present weather lasts, bivouacking is no great hardship, but when it breaks up, and the cold sets in, as it does early in these parts, the suffering and mortality will be terrible, unless timely precautions be taken to ensure at least shelter for all; and there is reason to fear that in some districts, such as Eski-Zaghra, there is a deficiency in this respect, and that proper care has not been taken to obtain information beforehand. I would, therefore, respectfully submit that it is none too soon now for steps to be taken in the matter.

No. 81.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 1170.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September 29, 1878.*

SINCE my despatch No. 1,166 of yesterday's date was written, Safvet Pasha has spoken to me about the surrender of the districts of Gusinje and Vranja, referred to in it. He has also expressed to me the opinion that the principal cause of the agitation now prevailing amongst the Albanians, and of their determination to resist the decisions of the Congress of Berlin with respect to the delimitation of the new frontiers of Montenegro and Servia, arises from the fact that a part of the territory to be handed over to those Principalities is inhabited exclusively by Albanians.

Safvet Pasha begged me to inquire of your Lordship whether you thought it would be possible to effect an exchange of Gusinje and Vranja for other territory containing a Slav population, especially as neither Montenegro nor Servia have ever even asked for these districts, and do not, he believes, require them. His Highness suggested that a part of the Herzegovina corresponding in size with the district of Gusinje might be given to Montenegro. He is also of opinion that the Albanians will do their utmost to prevent the surrender of Podgoritza, an Albanian town, to that Principality. His Highness is convinced that the Albanians will not quietly submit to being deprived of territory inhabited from time immemorial exclusively by their countrymen, but that their attempts to re-acquire it will lead to constant disturbances and disorders in Albania, which will be very prejudicial to the interests of Turkey and of Europe, and will promote the designs of Russia by affording her a pretext hereafter for further interference in the affairs of this country. His Highness trusts that if Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that it would be impossible to effect the change in the Treaty of Berlin that he suggests, the delimitation of the new frontiers of Montenegro and Servia by the European Commission may be delayed until the Porte can calm the agitation now existing in Albania, and could make arrangements for carrying out the decision of the Congress, without the danger of causing an outbreak which might have very serious consequences. His Highness stated that already the lives of the Ottoman functionaries in the province were threatened, and that Muhza Pasha, who commands the troops there, was exposed to the greatest danger on account of a telegram having been sent to him to inform him that he had been appointed to define the new boundaries, and to give up territory belonging to the Albanians to Montenegro. It had been necessary to send another telegram contradicting this statement.

His Highness, whilst begging me to submit these facts to your Lordship, earnestly requested me to point out to your Lordship that it was very important that nothing should be said to Russia or any other Power which might lead to the inference that the Porte was unable to enforce its authority in Albania, and might afford a pretext for foreign intervention. His Highness added that the Turkish Government would take measures to carry out the decisions of the Congress, but he would appeal to your Lordship to obtain time for it to do so. A sufficient force would be sent as soon as possible to Albania to prevent resistance to the orders of the Porte, but it was not easy to find at once the troops necessary for this object, as the Government had been warned that regiments containing Bosnians or Albanians must not be employed, as they could not be depended upon to fire upon their countrymen.

I telegraphed the substance of this dispatch to your Lordship this morning.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 82.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 1171.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September 29, 1878.*

I HAVE communicated to Safvet Pasha the various despatches addressed to me by Consul Sandwith, of which he has transmitted copies to your Lordship, relating to the negotiations now going on between the Turkish Commissioner to Crete, Ghazi Mukhtar Pasha, and the representative, sent by the Cretan "Tribunal Assembly" for the settlement of the differences between the Porte and the Christian inhabitants of the island who have taken up arms against the Sultan. It would appear that the

questions upon which they have not hitherto found it possible to come to an agreement are (1) the relative numbers of the Christian members to be sent to the General Assembly and the mode of their election; (2) the demand of the National Assembly that the Governor-General of the island shall always in future be a Christian; and (3) the positions to be held hereafter by the Turkish troops in Crete.

Mr. Sandwith in his despatch No. 111 of the 16th September entered fully into the questions of the elections. I agree with him in the view that he has taken as to the principle upon which they should be conducted, and that the Christians may have in the General Assembly a number of members proportionate to the Christian population of the island. It appears to me that the proposal made by the National Assembly, described by Mr. Sandwith in his despatch to me No. 111 of the 16th September, by which the Cretan Christians would have a very large majority in the General Assembly and the Mussulman element would be fully represented, is a fair and just one, and I have authorized him to give it his support. Safvet Pasha, to whom I have submitted Mr. Sandwith's arguments, does not appear to be disposed to accept the proposed arrangement. The Porte, his Highness says, prefers to adopt the principle laid down by the Turkish Constitution, which would give to the Christians a majority in the Assembly. The principle to which his Highness alludes is, I presume, that according to the LXVth Article there shall be a representative for every 50,000 males of Ottoman nationality. His Highness points out, however, that the Christian Cretans have hitherto absolutely refused to accept the Constitution, and that there would consequently be considerable difficulty in inducing them to accede to this suggestion. His Highness promised to take Mr. Sandwith's arguments into further consideration, and hoped to find some means of settling the question to the satisfaction of the Cretans and upon a just and liberal basis.

To the second demand that the Governor-General of the island should always in future be a Christian, Safvet Pasha expressed the most decided objection. His Highness maintains that the question is not that he should be of any particular faith, but that he should be an upright and able Governor. It was not impossible that the Sultan might think fit to name Midhat Pasha Vali of Crete, and surely no Christian subject of His Majesty would make so good a one, or would do so much for the prosperity and well-being of the island. I cannot but agree with his Highness in principle; but judging from Mr. Sandwith's despatches the National Assembly do not appear disposed to yield on this point.

As to the third demand that the Turkish troops should only occupy positions on the seacoast, and should not be allowed in the interior of the island, his Highness says that it would be impossible for strategical reasons, to agree to it. It was not necessary or intended, his Highness observed, to have large garrisons inland, but it was absolutely necessary, according to the best authorities, to secure the means of communication between the military positions on the coast, and this could only be done by fortified posts in the interior. When I spoke on these subjects with Safvet Pasha, he observed that he feared that however well disposed the Porte might be to make all just and reasonable concessions to the Christian Cretans, the intrigues of Greece would prevent their acceptance and the pacification of the island. He had been informed that the Greek Government was secretly encouraging and assisting the National Assembly to hold out for some time longer, as it was probable that before two or three months had elapsed there would be war between Turkey and Greece, when open assistance could be given to the Cretan insurrection. I have pointed out to his Highness that if what had been reported to him were true, it furnished the strongest argument in favour of coming to an agreement with the Cretan Christians without loss of time, and of making liberal concessions to them. His Highness promised to telegraph at once to Ghazi Mukhtar Pasha to hasten the negotiations.

Mr. Sandwith has requested me to obtain for him permission to be present at the sittings of the Commissioners, to which, it appears, Ghazi Mukhtar Pasha had no objection. Safvet Pasha gave instructions that he should be permitted to attend; but subsequently revoked them, as he feared that an inconvenient precedent might be furnished which would enable other Powers to insist upon the same privilege being granted to their Consuls on similar occasions, and that a pretext would be thus afforded to them for interfering in the internal affairs of the Empire.

As Mr. Sandwith did not seem to attach much importance to the matter I did not think it necessary to press it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 83.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 1172.) [B.B.]
My Lord, *Therapia, September 24, 1878.*

I RECEIVED this morning your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, authorizing me to request Admiral Sir G. Hornby to withdraw Her Majesty's ships under his command to Artaki as soon as the Russians retire from San Stefano. The Russian Ambassador having informed me officially that the Russian forces have evacuated that place, a statement which has been verified by Captain Ardagh and Lieutenant Chermside, who, at my request, have visited the place, I have communicated your Lordship's instructions to the Admiral. Although he is ready to leave his present anchorage at once, it would be convenient to him, in order to make various necessary arrangements, to remain there until Saturday morning, and I see no objection to his doing so. I have consequently informed the Porte and the Russian Ambassador that on that day the fleet will retire. I have the honour to inclose copies of the letters I have addressed to them on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 83.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Grand Vizier.

Highness, *Therapia, September 24, 1878.*

AS the Russian troops have now been withdrawn from the positions they occupied at San Stefano, and have been replaced by those of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, I have received the instructions of Her Majesty's Government to withdraw Her Majesty's fleet from its present anchorage at the Prince's Islands. The necessary arrangements for the departure of the fleet will be completed by Saturday morning, when Admiral Sir G. Hornby will proceed to Artaki, where he will remain until further orders.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 83.

Sir A. H. Layard to Prince Lobanoff.

Sir, *Therapia, September 24, 1878.*

WITH reference to your Excellency's letter of the 22nd instant, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that I have received instructions from Her Majesty's Government to withdraw Her Majesty's fleet as soon as the Imperial troops retire from San Stefano. I have consequently requested Admiral Sir G. Hornby to leave his present anchorage at the Prince's Islands as soon as he can make the necessary arrangements, which, I understand, he will be able to do by Saturday morning.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 84.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 1173.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 24, 1878.*

I RECEIVED a telegram four days ago from Acting Consul Barker, informing me that Mr. St. Clair, who calls himself Hidayet Bey, and his companion, Mr. Pagot, had arrived at Salonica, and had embarked on board a French steamboat for Constantinople. It appears that Mr. St. Clair subsequently disembarked at Cavalla, and

Mr. Paget at Lagos. I have since been informed by a Polish officer who has recently come from Mount Rhodope, where he was in command amongst the Mussulmans who have taken up arms to defend their country against the Russians, that the Pomak and other Mahommedan Chiefs are quarrelling among themselves and with Mr. St. Clair, and that he and the other Europeans in the mountains, mostly Poles, were desirous of leaving the country.

I afterwards had another telegram from Mr. Barker, requesting me, on behalf of Mr. St. Clair, to send one of Her Majesty's ships of war for him. Consul-General Fawcett has since received a despatch from the British Vice-Consul at Cavalla, of which I inclose a copy, giving an account of an interview with Mr. St. Clair, who repeated his request that a British ship of war should be sent to that port or to Lagos. I need scarcely say that I have not acceded to his request, as I have every reason to believe that he would make use of the presence of one of Her Majesty's ships to promote his own schemes, and to lead the Mussulmans of Mount Rhodope to believe that they are encouraged by, and are to receive the support of, Her Majesty's Government in opposing the decisions of the Congress.

Mr. St. Clair's statement to the Vice-Consul appears to confirm that made to me by the Polish officer to whom I have referred.

I have brought the Vice-Consul's despatch to the notice of Safvet Pasha, and have pointed out to his Highness that the opportunity appears to be a favourable one for taking measures to restore the authority of the Porte in the Rhodope districts, and I have urged him to lose no time in doing so. His Highness expressed his agreement with me, and said that he would at once propose to the Sultan to send Sami Pasha for the purpose.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 84.

Dr. Pecchioli to Consul-General Fawcett.

Cavalla, le 18 Septembre, 1878.

M. le Consul,

HIDAYET BEY (Saint-Clair) s'étant rendu à Salonique par le bateau des Messageries, le 15, aujourd'hui il est arrivé à Cavalla, d'où il se rend à Drama pour conférer avec le Mutessarif.

Dans une entrevue que j'ai eue avec lui, il m'a prié beaucoup de vous écrire quelques mots, qui devaient être aussi communiqués à son Excellence l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté Britannique Sir H. Layard.

Le Général Hidayet Bey tient à vous faire connaître que peu de temps avant son départ des troubles avaient éclaté à Kirgindi, à Ahirbelli, et à Sultanieri, que grâce à son influence et son autorité, l'ordre avait été provisoirement rétabli. Mais des vastes conspirations entre les Musulmans contre les Chrétiens sont certaines auxquelles ne seraient pas étrangers les Russes, qui ne demandent pas mieux qu'une révolution ou guerre civile pour se donner le droit d'intervenir dans le pays et marcher sur Constantinople (*sic*).

Sa responsabilité étant pour cela très lourde, le Général Sinclair demande que des troupes régulières lui soient envoyées—

1. Pour les mettre aux avant-postes afin que la Russie, au lieu de respecter l'armistice, ne fonde pas impunément sur son armée sous prétexte qu'ils sont des insurgés.

2. Parce que en cas d'insuccès, les insurgés poussés par la rage et le fanatisme pourraient ne pas écouter la voix de leur Chef et bien des atrocités pourraient être commises contre l'énorme population Chrétienne, surtout si la Grèce déclare la guerre à la Turquie; et dans ce cas-là les forces régulières pourraient servir misérablement à garder l'ordre et empêcher les excès.

Le Général Sinclair accepterait de même des bataillons étrangers pour le même but pour les disposer sur la ligne des confins jusqu'à ce que la Commission Européenne pour la Délimitation de la Roumélie ne prononce pas son verdict.

Sinclair acceptera les décisions de la Commission Européenne, fondées sur la prépondérance de mer et sur la base du Protocole de Berlin; mais il ne veut pas entendre parler de Traité de San Stefano que les Russes (*mirabile dictu*) à tout moment, même à présent, lui mettent en avant.

Le Colonel ou Général Sinclair demande au Gouvernement Britannique qu'une

marine de guerre soit stationnaire dans le port de Lagos ou Cavalla, soit pour la protection des Chrétiens de ces parages, soit pour avoir, lui et ses Aides-de-camp, la possibilité de se rendre à Constantinople pour conférer avec les autorités des Gouvernements Britannique et Ottoman.

Il demande aussi des secours morales et matériels à l'Ambassade Britannique et de l'argent au moins pour les besoins de subsistance les plus impérieux.

Voici, M. le Consul-Général, ce que Sinclair m'a prié de porter à votre connaissance et à celle de son Excellence Sir H. Layard.

Quant à moi, je ne me crois pas en droit de commenter minimement les idées de M. Sinclair—*relata refero*—et confiant dans le proverbe Italien, "Ambasciatore non porta pena."

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) DR. STANISLAS PECCHIOLI,
Vice-Consul Britannique par intérim.

No. 85.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 1175.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September 24*, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1,172 of to-day I have the honour to inclose copy of a Memorandum from Colonel Home, inclosing a despatch from Captain Ardagh, whom he had been good enough to send with Lieutenant Chermside to report officially to me upon the withdrawal of the Russian troops from the positions they have hitherto held at San Stefano.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 85.

Memorandum by Colonel Home, R.E.

IN accordance with your Excellency's instructions received yesterday, Captain Ardagh, C.B., and Lieutenant Chermside, of the Royal Engineers, proceeded at an early hour this morning to make a reconnaissance of the country between San Stefano and Kutchuk-Tchekmedjé.

Their Report I inclose. I think there can be no doubt but that the Russian rear-guard has retired from Kutchuk-Tchekmedjé, and is now to the westward of the Ka-su stream, which runs down the front of the Buyuk-Tchekmedjé Derkos position. Any troops to the eastward of that stream are in all probability merely the usual pickets that a retreating, or rather retiring, army leaves behind it to maintain order and pick up stragglers.

I think, therefore, that I am justified in saying that the Russians have retired from San Stefano to Tchataldja, and that the zone between San Georgio and Tchataldja is practically clear, and may be viewed as a neutral or dividing zone between the Turkish advanced-posts and the Russian rear-guard.

I regret that I am unable to send this Report to your Excellency this evening, but it goes to Therapia to-morrow morning by the first boat.

(Signed) R. HOME.

September 24, 1878.

P.S.—Believing your Excellency would wish to have this Report to-night, I have sent Lieutenant Chermside with it in preference to waiting until to-morrow.

R. H.

Inclosure 2 in No. 85.

Captain Ardagh, R.E., to Colonel Home, R.E.

Sir, *Constantinople, September* 24, 1878.

IN accordance with your instructions, Lieutenant Chermside and I proceeded this morning to San Stefano, and thence to Kutchuk-Tchekmedjé, Yarim Bourgas, and San Georgio, returning by the same general direction. General Skobeleff, now in command of his corps at Tchataldja, and Fuad Pasha, commanding the southern section of the Turkish army in front of Constantinople, travelled back with us from Makrikeui.

With respect to the object of your instructions, I beg to report as follows:—

The Russian forces have entirely evacuated all the positions and camps lately occupied by them in the vicinity of San Stefano, San Georgio, and the intervening villages, and have withdrawn to near Tchataldja, at which place and at another village, whose name I did not catch, General Skobeleff volunteered the statement that his divisions were now encamped. The only Russian troops visible along the line were two small pickets of about twelve men each on the western side of the Lake of Kutchuk-Tchekmedjé, and a detachment, for police purposes, at Yarim Bourgas, which is held jointly. The inhabitants of San Georgio stated that the nearest picket was at a distance of half-an-hour towards Hademkeui. Others stated that there were Russian troops at Rambarlü and Tasholük, both villages lying three miles west of the Tasiren valley and the Kutchuk-Tchekmedjé lake, and that larger bodies were at Buyuk-Tchekmedjé and Tchataldja.

The evacuation appears to have been carried out as follows:—The Russian troops remaining between San Georgio and San Stefano marched off on the 21st September. The greater portion encamped at Yarim Bourgas that evening and marched on the 22nd towards Tchataldja, which was apparently reached by one portion, the nearest large body remaining at Bagtché-ish on the opposite or eastern side of the Kara-su valley.

The village of San Stefano was occupied, on the departure of the Russians, by one regiment of Turkish cavalry, on the 21st, and infantry is expected there to-morrow. The ridge between Buyuk-Khalkali and Kutchuk-Kalkali (about midway between San Georgio and San Stefano) was occupied this day by six battalions of Turkish infantry, some cavalry, and twelve guns, who were pitching their camp as we passed at 5 o'clock. No Turkish troops (excepting the battalion of Mustafiz which supplies the guards for the Yarim Bourgas powder works, and which remained there during the Russian occupation) were visible from this point to San Georgio.

Lieutenant Chermside's knowledge of Turkish and his experience of the country were most useful.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. C. ARDAGH.

No. 86.

Sir A. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 4.)

(No. 1177. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 24, 1878.

A COMMISSION has been appointed by the Minister of Justice to prepare new regulations for the general reforms of the Judicial Tribunals. I have been able to obtain, confidentially, a copy of the Articles, which refer to the nomination and duties of the Inspectors, who are to be appointed to supervise the administration of Justice, the conduct of the Judges, the execution of the sentences, the condition of prisons, &c. I have the honour to inclose copy of a translation of it by M. Stavrides, who has appended a note, pointing out that the proposed institution of such Inspectors has no precedent in the legislation of any other country, and that it can only lead to inconvenience and delay.

Vahan Effendi, the Armenian Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Justice, informed me that it was intended that Europeans should be amongst the Inspectors; but I see nothing in the Articles communicated to me which indicates that such an intention exists. Even supposing that the object of the Porte in naming these Inspectors is a good one, and is not open to the objections made to it by M. Stavrides, it is evident that unless upright and honest men are found for the office, the miscarriage of justice and corruption which are at present so flagrant in the country will probably be increased, rather than diminished, by the proposed arrangement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 86.

Articles relative to Election of Inspectors to supervise the Administration of Justice.

(Traduction.)

Chapitre III.—Du Mode d'Élection des Inspecteurs de Justice et de leurs Devoirs.

Section 1.—*Du Mode d'Election et de Nomination des Inspecteurs.*

Article 48. Il sera nommé par Iradé Impérial, pour chaque vilayet et sur le Tacrir du Ministère de la Justice, un Inspecteur, qui aura la mission d'examiner constamment la condition et les procédés des Tribunaux du vilayet, ainsi que de se rendre compte de tout acte entravant le cours de la justice, et qui pourrait être en opposition aux lois et aux règlements.

Art. 49. Les personnes chargées de l'inspection des Tribunaux devront avoir une parfaite connaissance de toutes les dispositions de la loi civile et criminelle, et il faut en outre qu'ils aient été employés au moins pendant quatre ans, soit comme Présidents et membres de Tribunal, soit comme Procureurs-Généraux, ou qu'ils aient passé un examen par devant la Cour de Cassation, et que leurs aptitudes en aient été confirmées.

Section 2.—*Des Devoirs des Inspecteurs.*

Art. 50. Les Inspecteurs n'auront pas de résidence permanente, mais ils seront tenus de faire constamment le tour des Tribunaux du vilayet, et de les passer en revue.

Art. 5 1. L'Inspecteur, pouvant avoir accès libre auprès des Tribunaux en tout temps et à sa convenance, constatera: 1. Si le personnel du Tribunal se rend, ou non, régulièrement à son travail, et s'il fait attention, ou non, à la bonne administration de la justice. 2. Si les jugements, les débats judiciaires, et ce qui en découle ont lieu, ou non, selon la procédure établie. 3. Si les citations et le prononcé des décisions sont faits, ou non, en conformité du Code de Procédure. 4. Quelle est la quantité des procès dont la solution est en retard. 5. Le mode dont est fait le travail de greffe et d'enregistrement du Tribunal. Et, 6. si la perception et l'enregistrement du droit des sentences et des autres pièces judiciaires se fait, ou non, en conformité des règlements spéciaux établis à cet effet. En un mot, ils examineront tous les actes et la condition des Tribunaux, et c'est pourquoi ils pourront avoir accès à tous les registres et papiers des Tribunaux. En même temps ils auront à examiner si les Procureurs-Généraux et leurs aides font, ou non, leurs devoirs.

Art. 52. Les Inspecteurs auront soin à ce qu'aucune des parties en cause, quelle qu'en soit la position et la qualité, ne soit de la part du Tribunal l'objet, ni d'égards exceptionnels, ni d'insultes, et qu'aucun membre ne prononce des paroles confirmant l'assertion d'une des parties ou corroborant la réplique.

Art. 53. Les Inspecteurs auront à examiner et à rechercher si de la part du pouvoir Exécutif, ou de quelque autre autorité, il y a intervention ou exercice d'influence par rapport aux procédés et aux délibérations du Tribunal, ainsi qu'aux décisions qu'il rend, et en général à l'exécution de leurs devoirs et à leur administration interne.

Art. 54. Les Inspecteurs, toutes les fois qu'ils constateront quelques abus dans les choses qu'ils ont mission d'inspecter, préviendront par écrit les personnes que cela concerne, afin qu'ils aient à s'abstenir de la répétition de ces abus dans l'avenir. Le cas échéant, les Inspecteurs en préviendront aussi le Ministère de la Justice.

Art. 55. Les Inspecteurs auront, il est vrai, accès aux Tribunaux en tout temps, cependant comme ils ne posséderont pas la qualité de Juge, et qu'ils n'auront pas la faculté d'émettre une opinion dans le procès, ils s'abstiendront soit de suggérer, soit d'émettre une opinion quand il leur arrive d'assister aux délibérations du Tribunal; seulement ils pourront faire leur recommandation et rémontrance en particulier par rapport à tout ce qu'ils auront constaté.

Art. 56. Les Inspecteurs auront soin à ce que les détails judiciaires aient lieu en

public en conformité de la loi de procédure, et à ce que d'après la même loi, les délibérations du Tribunal soient secrètes.

Art. 57. Les Inspecteurs feront la revue des prisons afin de constater s'il s'y trouve, ou non, des personnes qui sont emprisonnées au-delà du terme fixé par le Tribunal, ou bien si elles sont emprisonnées illégalement. En même temps ils examineront l'administration interne des prisons, les procédés des geôliers envers les prisonniers et l'état hygiénique des prisons.

Art. 58. Toutes les fois que les recommandations faites par les Inspecteurs ne sont pas exécutées et que les choses qu'ils auront défendues sont répétées, les Inspecteurs en feront part au Ministère de la Justice.

Art. 59. Dans les cas criminels, si les procès-verbaux concernant le prévenu dont la soumission au Tribunal est nécessaire, ne sont pas remis à temps, et les interrogatoires ne sont pas faits d'une manière régulière, et enfin lorsque l'autorité locale, prévenue par écrit de la part du Tribunal n'exécute pas avec la célérité nécessaire les recherches et investigations requises par rapport au procès criminel dont il est saisi, l'Inspecteur en fera son rapport au Ministère de la Justice.

Art. 60. Toutes les fois qu'il y a intervention de l'autorité locale dans les fonctions internes des Tribunaux, de manière à porter atteinte à l'indépendance légale du Président et des membres, l'Inspecteur en préviendra immédiatement le Ministère de la Justice.

Art. 61. Toutes les fois qu'il arrive des choses illégales telles que de référer des pétitions et des papiers concernant des procès civils et criminels à des Tribunaux incompétents, de citer une personne sans qu'il y ait à cet égard une décision du Tribunal, d'arrêter une personne sans une cause plausible ou bien de lui demander une garantie et de la gêner d'une toute autre manière pareille, les Inspecteurs feront cesser cette irrégularité en appelant sur cela l'attention de l'autorité locale et en faisant en même temps leur rapport au Ministère de la Justice.

Art. 62. Les fonctionnaires du pouvoir Exécutif étant tenus d'exécuter les sentences rendues par les Tribunaux, toutes les fois que ceux-ci négligent de le faire, ou bien qu'ils exécutent plus ou moins de ce qui aurait été décidé par le Tribunal, ou bien encore qu'ils agissent de manière à mettre obstacle à l'exercice du droit d'appel et du recours en Cassation de la partie succombante, l'Inspecteur, tout en prévenant l'autorité locale, en préviendra aussi le Ministère de la Justice.

Art. 63. Les Inspecteurs n'accepteront point des requêtes concernant les procès et les plaintes ordinaires; seulement lorsqu'on leur présente une plainte en conformité de la voie judiciaire de la prise à partie, les Inspecteurs écriront là-dessus aux Valis ou aux Mutessarifs pour qu'ils réfèrent la plainte en question à la Cour d'Appel dont dépend le Tribunal de Première Instance, ou le membre de ce Tribunal contre lesquels la plainte est portée, la Cour d'Appel étant en même temps requise de l'en prévenir du résultat. Si, d'un autre côté, la plainte est contre la Cour d'Appel, tout en la référant à la Cour de Cassation, ils en feront part au Ministère de la Justice.

Art. 64. Les Inspecteurs feront connaître au Ministère de la Justice avec des preuves en appui, l'ineptitude, soit du Président, soit des Membres, Greffiers, et Instructeurs des Procès, s'il y a lieu.

Art. 65. Les Inspecteurs ayant droit, en exécution de leurs fonctions, de prendre parfois connaissance de certains papiers du Tribunal, ils pourront officiellement demander au Président une copie légalisée des pièces dont ils ont besoin de se rendre compte.

Art. 66. En dehors des rapports que les Inspecteurs sont tenus d'envoyer au Ministère de la Justice concernant les matières ci-dessus mentionnées, ils enverront en outre à la fin de chaque trimestre un Mémorandum résumant le journal de leurs faits et gestes qu'ils auront soin de tenir.

Art. 67. Les Inspecteurs donneront les détails les plus circonstanciés au Ministère de la Justice, par rapport à tout ce qui pourrait rendre difficile l'exécution de la loi et mettre obstacle au cours de la justice.

N.B.—M. Stavrides se permet de faire observer que la création des Inspecteurs de Justice, ayant les attributions indiquées dans le projet ci-dessus, est une institution sans précédents dans le pays où une organisation de la justice existe. Il lui semble que si l'on veut exercer un contrôle régulier sur les Tribunaux, on n'a qu'à créer, comme cela est en France, d'où les Turcs ont emprunté leur législation moderne, le Ministère Public qui sert de lien entre l'autorité administrative et l'autorité judiciaire.

La création nouvelle est une anomalie qui ne fera que produire un antagonisme entre ces Inspecteurs et le Corps Judiciaire, et entraver la marche des affaires en compliquant davantage le mécanisme de la justice. D'ailleurs, l'essai que jadis le Gouvernement en a fait dans la capitale aurait dû lui en prouver l'inefficacité.

Le 25 Septembre, 1878.

No. 87.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 1178.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September 24*, 1878.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 13th ultimo, Safvet Pasha informs me that Count Zichy has not yet urged upon him to make a full inquiry into the murder of Mehemet Ali Pasha, and to send a sufficient force to protect those who are charged with the procedure. The Porte, his Highness says, is doing all it possibly can to re-establish its authority, and measures are being taken which it is hoped may lead to that result.

I have urged upon Safvet Pasha on several occasions the great importance of instituting the fullest inquiry into the circumstances connected with the death of the Mushir, and of punishing the authors of the crime.

I have informed Count Zichy that I have been instructed by your Lordship to support him in any representations that he may make on the subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 88.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 1179. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September 24*, 1878.

THE Russian Ambassador has notified to the Porte officially the nomination of Prince Tseretelew as Russian Consul-General at Philippopolis. The Prince is also, as your Lordship is aware, the Assistant Russian Commissioner for the organization of Eastern Roumelia. I have only once seen him, and am not therefore in a position to form an opinion with regard to his character or his political views. He is reported to be an ultra-Panslavist, and to be a very apt pupil of General Ignatieff. His appointment to represent Russian interests in the new autonomous province is by no means agreeable to the Porte, and there is a general impression that he will be the centre of the intrigues and conspiracies which have already been set on foot to defeat the decisions of the Congress, and to bring about a union between Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia, in defiance of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 89.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 1182. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September 25*, 1878.

SAFVET PASHA has asked me whether if the Sultan were not to call the Chambers together this year it would, in my opinion, be considered by Europe and by the Ottoman population that His Majesty had no further intention of abiding by the Constitution. His Highness said that in the present state of public feeling, with so many international questions of the greatest delicacy and importance pending, the presence of a popular assembly in which resistance to the Government, demands for explanations, and attacks on foreign Powers may be expected, could not but be a source of serious danger. The Sultan's wish was to summon the Parliament, but it would be very desirable that he should not do so until affairs were more settled; and there was no provision in the Constitution which rendered it necessary for the Chambers to meet every year. His Highness further inquired whether in Constitutional countries

the Sovereign had the power to suspend the meeting of Parliament for more than a year.

I replied that the obligation of the Sovereign to call together his Parliament within a certain time depended, in Constitutional countries, upon the terms of the Constitution and of the law. There had, no doubt, been instances in such countries of the suspension of the Constitution in this respect in times of great national peril, and it could not be denied that the dangers which he had pointed out as attending a meeting of the Chambers existed at the present moment with regard to the Turkish Empire. The Sultan, I observed, had more than once told me that it was his firm resolve to summon his Parliament as soon as he could do so with safety to the State, and I thought that it would be well that some official statement to that effect should be published which would satisfy his people and Europe of His Majesty's intention to do so. A good deal might depend in the future organisation of Turkey upon whether the Constitution was to be considered still in existence or not. I had always held the opinion that almost the only thing that could hold this Empire together was a National Assembly in which all parts of it, whether autonomous or not, should be represented. The right to take part in the direction of Imperial policy, and in the general administration of the country, was a privilege to which all the provinces of Turkey had a right. The question should be placed in this light before the populations of Crete, the Lebanon, Eastern Roumelia, and other provinces which had a particular organization. They had been led to believe that by sending Deputies to the Parliament they were forfeiting some of their privileges. It should be proved to them that so far from such being the case it was the best way to preserve them, and that by having representatives in the Chambers they would have the means of publicly exposing their grievances, and of calling the attention of the Porte and of Europe to any violation of their rights.

Safvet Pasha expressed his cordial agreement in my opinion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

P.S.—By the 43rd Article of the Ottoman Constitution it is provided that the two Chambers shall meet on the 1st November of each year, so that Safvet Pasha appears to have been in error in stating that there was no provision rendering it necessary that the Parliament should meet annually.

A. H. L.

No. 90.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 1183.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 25, 1878.*

I DESIRE to call your Lordship's attention to the section of the IVth Article of the draft of the Treaty of Peace proposed by Russia, of which I had the honour to forward your Lordship a copy in my despatch No. 1148 of the 18th instant. In that section it is stipulated that, "so long as the Russian troops remain in the localities which, in virtue of the Treaty of San Stefano and Berlin, are to be restored to the Porte, the administration and order of things shall remain in the same state in which they have been since the occupation. The Porte is not to take any part in them during that time, and until the departure of all the Russian troops." It would appear that this stipulation is opposed to, and overrides the XVIIIth and XIXth Articles of the Treaty of Berlin, which seem to give to the Porte the organization of the Province of Eastern Roumelia and the administration of its finances, in concert with the European Commission during the Russian military occupation.

I have pointed this out to the Grand Vizier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 91.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 1185.) [B.B.]
My Lord, *Therapia, September 25, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a despatch from Acting Consul Calvert, requesting permission to visit certain districts in the neighbourhood of Adrianople with a view to ascertaining and reporting upon the condition of the Turkish refugees who have returned to their homes. I have authorized Mr. Calvert to absent himself for a limited period with this object, and to incur the expenditure mentioned in his despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 91.

Acting Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Adrianople, September 21, 1878.*

WITH reference to my last despatch of to-day's date, I would respectfully suggest to your Excellency the advisability of my being authorized to make a tour through the places where most of the Turkish refugees have returned to their former homes, in order that I may ascertain and report upon the condition of that class of the population in respect of shelter, means of subsistence, treatment by the Christian inhabitants, and protection by the Russian authorities; for I find it impossible to obtain here complete and reliable information on these points. The districts to which it would be most desirable to direct inquiry appear to be Hasskioi, Yeni-Zaghra, Eski-Zaghra, Yamboli, and Slivno.

As regards the question of expense, so far as railway fares are concerned there would be no material disbursement, since I am provided with a free pass on the line for self, cavas, and baggage; but I beg leave to solicit your Excellency's authorization to incur the expenditure attending such further means of conveyance as would be necessary, and to suggest as a fair basis of reimbursement that which was accorded to Mr. Consul Blunt on similar service last year, namely, the amount of carriage and horse hire paid, and 1*l.* sterling a-day for all other travelling expenses.

Should your Excellency approve of this suggestion, I would submit that it were desirable for me to start with as little delay as possible in order that, if the occasion calls for it, measures of relief may be taken before the season is much further advanced.

The Governor of Adrianople, General Lipinsky, lately offered to furnish me with the necessary escort in case I should wish to inquire on the spot (in a non-official capacity) into the late disorders reported in my despatch of the 27th ultimo, but although such a journey might be undertaken usefully to the public service, it seems to me that, as the districts which suffered from those disorders are apparently insured from a repetition of them for the present, a visit to those parts may with advantage be deferred until full time for redress shall have elapsed, when I shall be enabled to report definitely on that point also. On the other hand the question of the refugees appears to be more pressing, and it is for that reason I now have the honour to solicit from your Excellency the authorization above referred to.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

No. 92.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 1186.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 25, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch which I have received from Vice-Consul Gatheral, reporting that serious disturbances have broken out at a place called Dewellü, in the district of Angora.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 92.

Vice-Consul Gatheral to Sir A. H. Layard.

Angora, September 14, 1878.

Sir,

I BEG to inform you that serious disturbances have recently broken out on the borders of this province, at a place called Dewellü in Kiepert's maps, nearly thirty miles south of Kighserai, at the base of Mount Argiens. These troubles are fomented by a person called Cozmoglou Ahmet Pasha, who for many years past was kept in Constantinople under some sort of surveillance. Recently he received permission from the Sultan to return to Dewellü, his native district. Arrived there, he has busied himself collecting, drilling, and arming the people of the district. He is alleged to represent himself as authorized by the British Government to act in this way, and govern the district on behalf of that Government. Another account represents him as stating that the Ottoman Government is about to surrender Asia Minor to the English, and that he has returned to arm the people and prevent the transfer. I have been unable to ascertain which account is the true one. On Tuesday last (10th instant) he sent a body of horsemen (fifteen in number) to Kighserai to buy or seize what gunpowder there was in the place. The local Government acted with commendable promptitude, seized and overpowered the troopers. On Wednesday, the 11th, the Mutessarif of Kighserai telegraphed the provincial Government here that the sedition was spreading, that a renewed attempt was meditated, and urgently demanding that reinforcements be sent on at once. This provincial Government has advised the Porte of these disorders; but up till to-day no instructions have been received. The authorities, as usual, make light of the matter, and assert that the rising has been suppressed at Lis; but the foregoing facts have been carefully verified, and can be relied on.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GAVIN GATHERAL.

No. 93.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 1188. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 26, 1878.*

RUMOURS have prevailed here, and have been repeated by the European press, that two secret agents have arrived at Constantinople from the Ameer of Afghanistan, and that the Sultan, on the other hand, has sent a secret agent to Cabul. I have asked Safvet Pasha whether there be any foundation for them. His Highness declares most positively that he knows nothing of the matter, and expresses his entire disbelief in them. I have, however, made inquiries on the subject, and I am told that a certain Said Reshed Effendi left Constantinople some time ago for Afghanistan disguised as a merchant. He was to travel through Russian territory, and was promised every assistance from the Russian authorities, and even furnished with a Russian safe-conduct. It is believed by the persons from whom I derive this information that he is going on a secret mission from the Sultan or the Porte to the Ameer. He is said to communicate with the Palace through a certain Mehemet Ali Pasha. Some of my informants believe that the object of his mission is to counteract Russian influence in Afghanistan; others, that it is to oppose that of England.

On the other hand, it is stated that there is an Afghan in Constantinople, who has been sent on some secret mission by the Ameer.

I give these rumours under every reserve. I have not yet been able to satisfy myself as to their truth, and I am continuing my inquiries on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 94.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 1189.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 26, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1164 of the 21st instant, I have the honour to inclose copy of a note which I have received from Safvet Pasha, stating the measures which have been adopted by the Turkish authorities for the protection of the inhabitants in the Armenian district of Geghi.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 94.

Note Verbale.

Le 24 Septembre, 1878

DÈS la réception du Mémoire que l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique a bien voulu adresser le 25 Juin dernier au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, relativement aux mauvais traitements dont les habitants tant Musulmans que Chrétiens de Geghi étaient l'objet de la part de leurs Beys, la Sublime Porte s'était empressée d'envoyer aux autorités Impériales du Vilayet d'Erzéroum les ordres les plus catégoriques pour l'adoption de mesures propres à mettre un terme à cet état de choses.

Il résulte de la réponse de son Excellence Ismaïl Hakki Pacha que les dispositions nécessaires ont été prises pour le rétablissement de l'ordre et de la tranquillité publics et pour la sauvégarde des droits de tous. Le Caïmacam Ismail Bey a été appelé au chef-lieu du vilayet pour y être jugé et a été remplacé provisoirement dans son poste par un autre fonctionnaire.

D'autre part, le chef de la correspondance du vilayet, accompagné d'une personne connaissant le pays, a été chargé de se rendre sur les lieux afin d'ouvrir une enquête minutieuse sur tous les faits mentionnés dans le Mémoire précité et de dresser un Rapport sur les mesures qu'il y a lieu d'adopter pour y mettre un terme.

L'Ambassade de Sa Majesté la Reine peut donc être persuadée que rien ne sera négligé pour remédier à l'état de choses qu'elle a bien voulu signaler au Ministère Impérial.

No. 95.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 1190. Secret.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 26, 1878.*

I LEARN from several fairly trustworthy sources that Russia is now earnestly exerting herself to recover her influence at the Porte. With this object her Agents, it is stated, are resorting to means with the use of which they are so well acquainted. If I am not misinformed, very considerable sums have already been spent in the Palace, not without success, to gain over the persons who are about the Sultan, and who are believed to exercise influence over him. It is even said that Ghazi Osman Pasha, the head of His Majesty's household, is now favourable to the policy of a close alliance with Russia, and one of my colleagues has expressed to me his conviction that Raouf Pasha has been gained over to the Russian cause. I have not a very high opinion of Osman Pasha's wisdom as a politician, although I believe him to be an honest man. He is a gallant soldier, but has no knowledge of European politics, and has had no

experience of public affairs. I have no good reason to suspect Raouf Pasha, who may, however, have been brought under Russian influence when he was sent to St. Petersburgh to exchange the ratifications of the Treaty of San Stefano. It is further believed by some that there are members of the present Ministry who wish to throw over the friendship of England for that of Russia, and that the principal promoter of this policy is Server Pasha, who, it is rumoured, may shortly succeed Safvet Pasha as Grand Vizier. But such reports are so easily invented and spread in this country, that they must be received with much caution and distrust. They are, however, useful in putting a foreign Representative on his guard, and sometimes in giving him a clue for further inquiries.

It is my belief that the Sultan's personal feelings against Russia are so strong that it would be difficult to persuade him to turn to her, and to abandon what is called the English policy. He cannot but look upon her as the cause of the disasters to his country, and of humiliation to himself. But he may be persuaded, in the end, that it is to his own interest, and to that of his Empire, to forget the past, and to look to Russia as the Power with whom it is essential for him to enter into a close alliance in order to insure his independence, to save what remains to him of his territories, and to preserve him from future aggression on her part, or that of any other State. To this object the language of those who advocate a change of policy in favour of Russia, and against England, is very artfully directed. They avail themselves of the invasion of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Austria to point out that she has, for many years past, aimed at the annexation of those provinces, and that she has possessed herself of them with the previous knowledge and sanction of England. They maintain that England had entered into secret arrangements with Austria, before the meeting of the Congress of Berlin, hostile to Turkey; that she induced the Porte by false representations to cede Cyprus to her; and that her real object in possessing that island is to obtain a direct protectorate over the Asiatic dominions of the Sultan, which she will convert, within a very short time, into actual possession. Russia, they argue, has no desire to make further acquisitions in Asia Minor; she has obtained all she requires, and is willing to leave the Sultan in peaceable and independent enjoyment of the rest, and even to assist him in defending it against the designs of England. If Russia were again to attack Turkey in Asia Minor, they say, it would be on account of her alliance with England, and in defence of Russian interests which are endangered by it.

These arguments may not be without their effect upon some Turks of influence; but I doubt whether they have yet produced any upon the Sultan.

Some persons are under the impression, and I may specially instance my French colleague, whose conviction on this point is very strong, that Russia is endeavouring to embroil Turkey with Austria, and to bring about a war between the two countries, and that it is the Russian party in the Ministry that is encouraging the Sultan in his refusal to authorize the signature of the Convention offered by Count Andrassy, and is preventing any arrangement with the Austrian Government. These same persons believe that Russia is secretly inciting the Servians and Montenegrins against Austria, and they cite in support of their opinion the telegrams from Belgrade and elsewhere, published in the Turkish and European papers, to the effect that Russia has undertaken to give Servia a monthly subsidy to enable her to maintain her army on a war footing, and to increase it; that she has officially declared to the Servian and Montenegrin Governments that the occupation of Bosnia by Austria is provisional, and that she cannot annex the province without a violation of Treaty, and of international rights; that Servia has refused to assist Austria in any way should her army advance towards Novi-Bazar; that Servia has declined to enter into a Customs union with Austria; that there is no truth in the report that Servia and Montenegro have entered into an arrangement with Austria to co-operate with her in her advance into Turkey; and finally, that Count Schouvaloff has failed in inducing Count Andrassy to accept certain proposals which he had been sent to Vienna to submit to the Austro-Hungarian Minister. These reports, of which I have seen no official confirmation or contradiction, may be entirely without foundation, but they are published with an appearance of authority which leads people to credit them. My French colleague is of opinion that it is the deliberate design of Russia to destroy the Austrian Empire, in order to prevent it becoming a great and powerful Slav State by absorbing the Slav populations of Turkey, and that she is secretly encouraged to do so by Prince Bismarck, with the object of uniting to the German Empire the German population of Austria. He believes that he finds a proof of this intention of the German Chancellor in the almost abject manner in which German Representatives and Agents in this country follow the Russian lead, and support Russian views and interests on every occasion. It is

announced that the German Commissioners for the organization and delimitation of Eastern Roumelia and Bulgaria will work with their Russian colleagues to defeat the decisions of the Congress, and to prevent the Treaty of Berlin from being carried out as regards that province.

There is no doubt, I believe, that Russian officers in high command express themselves very freely about Austria, declaring that she will not be allowed to obtain any further increase to her Slav population, and that the difficulties she has brought upon herself by her invasion and annexation of Bosnia have so greatly weakened her that the road to Vienna may now be considered open to a Russian army. The language held by Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff to Lord Donoughmore (as reported by him to Sir Henry Drummond-Wolff), to Vice-Consul-Calvert, and to others, as well as the proceedings of the Russians in the territory they now occupy to the south of the Balkans, appear to prove that the Russians have no intention of permitting Eastern Roumelia to be organized as contemplated by the Treaty of Berlin, or to remain, even if it were so, for any length of time under the authority of the Porte and detached from Bulgaria.

Without attaching too much importance to the facts and opinions that I have submitted to your Lordship, I cannot but think they deserve the consideration of Her Majesty's Government. They would appear to warrant a suspicion that Russia will endeavour to renew, without loss of time, and to carry out, her designs for the destruction of the Turkish Empire, and for bringing the greater part of it under her direct rule, or under her exclusive influence, and that she is seeking so to weaken and embarrass Austria that she will have no cause to fear any serious opposition from that quarter. That she is doing her utmost to detach Turkey from England, I cannot entertain a doubt. That she has, as yet, succeeded in doing so, I do not believe, although I am told that Prince Labanoff has given persons to understand that he is well satisfied with the progress that he has made. But whilst great watchfulness is required on our part, it is, in my opinion, absolutely necessary that we should take every means to convince the Porte that it is absolutely essential to the very existence of this Empire that the most frank and cordial relations should exist between England and Turkey, and that it is to its interest to accept and follow our advice, and to endeavour to meet all our just and reasonable demands. I am using my utmost efforts, both in my relations with the Sultan and his Ministers, to remove any suspicions that they may have been led to entertain with regard to us, and to induce them to place confidence in us; but the task is no easy one in face of the corruption, incapacity, and indifference with which one is surrounded in this country, and the unscrupulous intrigues with which one has to contend.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 96.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 1191.) [B.B.]
My Lord, *Therapia, September 26, 1878.*

I HAVE received a further telegram from Consul Biliotti, respecting the panic said to exist amongst the Armenians at Erzeroum, in consequence of their fear of Mussulman retaliation on the withdrawal of the Russian troops. I at once submitted this telegram to Safvet Pasha. His Highness assures me that the accounts received by the Porte from Armenia continue to be very satisfactory, and are in direct contradiction to the reports sent for special purposes by certain Armenians and others to the foreign Embassies and to persons in Constantinople.

His Highness states that two Military Commanders, specially appointed for maintaining the general peace and security and for the protection of the Christians, have already reached Erzeroum, and that the Vali, Ismail Hakki Pasha, is on his way to that town.

In justice to the Governor-General, against whose continuance in that office, as your Lordship is aware, I have spoken very strongly to Safvet Pasha, I am bound to state that the French Consul at Erzeroum, who has recently arrived here from that place, speaks very highly of the energy and impartiality he has shown in taking measures for restoring tranquillity, and for preserving the lives and property of the Christians.

The Consul says, I am informed, that he is by far the best Governor-General that could under present circumstances be found for Armenia. This is an instance, out of very many which I could mention, of the contradictory reports that reach one, from equally trustworthy sources, of the characters, proceedings, and qualifications of Turkish functionaries.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 97.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 1192.) *Therapia, September 26, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a note which I have received from Safvet Pasha, in which his Highness informs me that Pertew Effendi has been appointed Ottoman Commissioner in Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 97.

Safvet Pasha to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Circulaire.) *Le 23 Septembre,* 1878.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

JE m'empresse d'informer votre Excellence que la Sublime Porte a désigné Pertew Effendi, ancien Directeur du Contentieux au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, pour remplir le poste de Commissaire Impérial Ottoman à l'effet d'assister, de concert avec les Consuls délégués par les Grandes Puissances, l'administration provisoire de la Bulgarie, qui doit être dirigée jusqu'à l'achèvement du Réglement Organique par un Commissaire Impérial Russe, conformément aux dispositions de l'Article VI. du Traité de Berlin.

Pertew Effendi se rendra incessamment à son poste, et s'empressera de se mettre en rapport avec MM. les Consuls délégués des Puissances qui doivent avoir déjà reçu leurs instructions.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SAFVET.

No. 98.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 1193. Very Confidential.) *Therapia, September 27, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of two despatches from the Vice-Consul at Tultja relative to affairs in Bulgaria and the Dobrudscha, which the French Ambassador has been so good as to place, very confidentially, in my hands.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 98.

M. Langlais to M. Fournier.

Tultcha, le 21 Septembre, 1878.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

M. LE COLONEL FALCOIANO est revenu à Tultcha le 17 du ce mois, avec le personnel de sa mission, et M. le Délégué de Roumanie, après avoir parcouru la plus grande partie de la Dobroudja. Il est parti il y a deux jours pour Silistrie.

Les différents entretiens que j'ai eu avec cet officier supérieur me permettent de confirmer à votre Excellence les prévisions que j'avais eu l'honneur d'exprimer à l'Ambassade touchant le but de la Mission Roumaine, qui était de visiter les principaux centres de population, de s'enquérir des ressources du pays, de l'état de l'opinion, de parcourir les frontières de la province, et surtout d'étudier avec une attention locale particulière la frontière sud de la Dobroudja entre Mangalia et le Danube.

Relativement à ce dernier point M. le Colonel Falcoiano m'a dit, à titre confidentiel, qu'il avait eu communication du projet de délimitation préparé par l'Etat-Major Russe, et ne m'a pas caché la pénible impression qu'il lui avait causé. Du dit de M. Falcoiano le tracé Russe offrirait une ligne contournée et tourmentée de manière à donner à la Principauté Bulgare toutes les positions stratégiques qui se trouvent dans ces parages, en laissant complétement ouverte, en plaine, et sans défense possible, la frontière sud de la Dobroudja. Le tracé Russe présenterait notamment un angle entrant profondément dans la future province Roumaine, afin d'englober la position de Kusgun, à l'est de Silistrie. Or, le Colonel Falcoiano semble attacher une très-grande importance à ce point stratégique, surtout dans le cas où la position de Silistrie devrait être attribuée à la Principauté de Bulgarie. Il m'a semblé, d'ailleurs, qu'il ne désespérait pas encore de voir Silistrie même concédé à la Roumanie. M. le Colonel Falcoiano paraît du reste assez résigné à la perte de la ligne de Cavarna-Bazardjik.

En résumé, l'impression qui m'est restée de ces divers entretiens est, que M. le Chef d'Etat-Major de l'armée Roumaine est disposé à conseiller à son Gouvernement (1) de demander Silistrie, quitte à céder sur ce point, mais (2) de poser l'acquisition de Kusgun comme une condition *sine qua non* de l'acceptation de la Dobroudja par la Roumanie, (3) d'ajourner la prise de possession de la nouvelle province jusqu'au moment où ces différentes questions auront été résolues à la satisfaction de la Roumanie.

M. le Colonel Falcoiano espère que la Commission Européenne de Délimitation mettra bon ordre aux prétentions exagérées de la Russie. Il dit, non sans raison peut-être, qu'il est de l'intérêt de l'Europe que la position des Roumains en Dobroudja soit assez forte pour permettre à leurs troupes, en cas de besoin, de faire front vers le Balkan et vers le Bas-Danube assez longtemps pour que la Roumanie puisse être secourue.

M. le Colonel Falcoiano me dit avoir trouvé dans l'intérieur de la Dobroudja les villages Tartares et Turcs ruinés en grande partie par les autres habitants du pays. Les maisons Musulmans restées debout sont occupées par des familles Chrétiennes qui refuseraient de les rendre à leurs légitimes propriétaires à moins que ceux-ci ne consentissent à les indemniser des réfractions qu'ils disent y avoir opérées. La misère des Musulmans repatriés les met dans l'impuissance de satisfaire à ces exigences peu justifiées. Ces faits sont malheureusement exacts. Mais je dois dire que les autorités locales ont reçu l'ordre exprès de faire réintégrer les Musulmans dans les maisons dont ils se trouvent dépossédés, et qu'il y a lieu d'espérer qu'elles vont équitablement donner à cette difficulté une solution que le retour des Tartares et des Turcs rend de jour en jour plus impérieuse.

En tout cas il ne me paraît pas douteux que cette question ne soit réglée au mieux des intérêts Musulmans, dès que le Gouvernement du Prince Charles occupera la Dobroudja. Les Envoyés Roumains témoignent une sollicitude non déguisée aux Musulmans. On a beaucoup remarqué ici que le Chef de la Mission Roumaine n'a visité en fait de Bulgares que Dimitraki Théodoroff, ancien Député au Parlement Ottoman, et l'un des Chefs de la coterie Turque. J'ai eu l'occasion de signaler précédemment les motifs de cette politique.

En ce qui touche l'état de l'opinion publique, surtout au sein de la population, il m'a paru qu'elle préoccupe vivement les Représentants de Gouvernement de Bucarest. M. le Délégué de Roumanie prétend que des caisses de révolvers sont journellement introduites et distribuées dans la province, qu'une grande quantité de fusils de munition avec des approvisionnements de cartouches ont été vendus, que tous les Bulgares sont armés, et que bon nombre d'entre eux disent hautement qu'ils résisteront par les armes à l'occupation Roumaine, sans que les autorités Russes prennent des mesures contre ces divers agissements. Bien que M. Stoyanmoritz m'affirme qu'il tient ces informations de source sûre, j'hésite à partager ces appréhensions qui me paraissent en tout cas notablement exagérées. La nature du pays ne se prête aucunement à une guerre de partisans. Les dispositions et le nombre des autres habitants en rendaient les chances fatales aux Bulgares. Enfin le caractère de ces derniers ne me paraît pas justifier ces appréhensions sinistres. J'inclinerais volontiers à penser que les Bulgares de Dobroudja, en croyant les incertitudes qui règnent à Bucarest, essayent d'augmenter les hésitations et les répugnances du Gouvernement Roumain en affichant des intentions belliqueuses, qui s'évanouiront des premières troupes d'occupation. Je

dois dire cependant (et je tiens le fait de source assez sûre) qu'une nouvelle adresse élaborée à Phililé, et déjà parvenue à Tultcha doit être présentée incessamment à la signature des Bulgares de Dobroudja après avoir été souscrite dans toute la Bulgarie. Elle contient une protestation du peuple Bulgare contre l'annexion de la Dobroudja à la Roumanie et doit être transmise à Bucarest.

Il ne sera pas sans intérêt d'observer l'attitude que les autorités Russes adopteront à l'encontre de cette manifestation, contraire aux décisions de l'Europe.

Quels que soient le but et l'issue de toutes ces agitations elles inquiètent les Roumains, elles excitent une assez vive émotion dans le pays, elles peuvent acquérir une importance plus grave. A ces divers titres il était de mon devoir de les signaler à l'attention de votre Excellence.

(Signé) O. LANGLAIS.

P.S.—Au moment de fermer cette dépêche je suis informé que de nombreuses troupes venant de l'intérieur sont arrivées hier à Babadagh.

Inclosure 2 in No. 98.

M. Langlais to M. Fournier.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Tultcha, le 22 Septembre,* 1878.

SOUS les plus grandes réserves. Au moment où le courrier est sur le point de quitter Tultcha et avant que j'aie pu contrôler la vérité du renseignement qui m'est donné, une personne très-mêlée au mouvement Bulgare m'assure que l'adresse que j'avais l'honneur de vous signaler dans ma dépêche d'hier aurait une portée bien plus grande que celle que je lui supposais. Elle contiendrait protestation des populations du Balkan contre :—

1. La remise aux Turcs de la ligne des Balkans.
2. L'enlèvement d'une partie de la Thrace à la Bulgarie.
3. L'annexion de la Dobroudja à la Roumanie.

En un mot, contre la plupart des décisions prises par l'Europe à l'encontre des populations Bulgares. Ce document, conçu dans des termes comminatoires (on y parlerait hautement de 52,000 Bulgares enrégimentés et prêts à tenir tête à tout venant) serait dressé en sept exemplaires : un pour Bucarest, six pour les Puissances. Il aurait été signé déjà en Bulgarie. A Tultcha les notables Bulgares le signent aujourd'hui même.

Le personnage auquel je dois ce renseignement m'affirme que le Gouverneur et le Vice-Gouverneur auraient connaissance de ce manifeste ; mais n'auraient rien fait encore pour en arrêter la circulation.

Je ne puis croire que la Bulgarie, appuyée sur la Russie, ait sérieusement l'outrecuidance de jeter aussi audacieusement le gant à la face de l'Europe.

Quoi qu'il en soit, l'importance de cette information m'oblige à la signaler dès à présent à votre Excellence. Je le fais bien entendu sous les plus extrêmes réserves.

Agréez, &c.

(Signé) O. LANGLAIS.

No. 99.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 1.)

(No. 1194.) *Therapia, September* 27, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches from Mr. Acting Consul Calvert and Mr. Vice-Consul Calvert, reporting upon matters of interest in the districts of Adrianople and Philippopolis.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 99.

Acting Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Adrianople, September* 3, 1878.

WITH reference to Mr. Acting Vice-Consul F. Calvert's despatch to your Excellency of the 31st ultimo, reporting further details regarding the trial of Shaban and Arif Aghas, of Philippopolis (which despatch was received by me to-day under flying seal and is forwarded with the present), I have the honour to inform your Excellency that I learn from Mr. Buckland, correspondent of the "Daily News," who has just arrived from Philippopolis, that execution of the sentence passed upon the condemned men has been deferred pending the hearing of new witnesses, whose testimony is understood to be of a favourable character.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 99.

Acting Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Adrianople, September* 21, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency the following statement which has been made to me regarding the condition of affairs at Karabunar, a Turkish village, near the railway station of that name on the Yamboli line.

The inhabitants had abandoned their village on the retreat of the Turkish army ; but lately, on receiving permission from the Russian authorities to do so, they returned to their homes. The villagers have received no rations since their repatriation, but have depended for their subsistence on such bread as they could earn, literally, in the hewing of wood and the drawing of water for their Bulgarian neighbours. These last, it is scarcely necessary to say, had profited of the enforced absence of the Turks during harvest-time to appropriate all the village crops, and they have made a merit of lending back to the despoiled owners a certain quantity of their own rye.

The Christians appear, however, to have persuaded themselves that their Mussulman helots were receiving overmuch favour at their hands, for yesterday a number of Bulgarians assembled themselves from the neighbouring villages of Deglandja, Obroukly, Gulbunar, Sorout, and Koun-kioï, and, making a descent on Karabunar, committed various outrages, such as breaking into the houses of two men named Bakkal Khalil Khodja and Salih Daï, and violating the females there.

On the approach of the marauders most of the inhabitants had fled to the neighbouring railway station, where they invoked the aid of the Russo-Bulgarian gendarmes. These guardians of the public peace declined, however, to interfere, and the ruffianly assailants retired at their leisure, promising, as they did so, to return shortly and finish their work, and vowing they would leave no Turks at Karabunar.

The above circumstances were reported to me to-day by a Turkish inhabitant of Karabunar, of the better class, whose family is now at that place, and who, in great distress, implored me to intercede for the protection of the people there from further injury. All that I could do was to report the facts at once to the Earl of Donoughmore at Philippopolis, Karabunar being within the limits of Eastern Roumelia.

As regards repatriated Turks in other parts of the country I learn that, although those at Slivno and Yamboli are now all housed, they are subjected to the worst treatment at the hands of the Bulgarians. Letters received from Armenians at the former place state that the Armenian community have been comparatively free from annoyance since the return of the Turkish refugees, as the Bulgarians now direct all their ill-will against these last. It is added that the bodies of murdered Turks are found lying about from day to day.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 99.

Acting Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Adrianople, September 22, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that within the last few days the Russian military authorities have been renewing their endeavours to enforce a conscription for the "National Army" on the Bulgarian population on this side of the boundary of Eastern Roumelia; and this time, so far, with success. In order, apparently, to attract as little attention as possible the measure has not been applied all at once to every part of the country, but to a village here, and a village there, one day after another.

I have received trustworthy information on this subject as regards the following Bulgarian villages:—At Soghoudjak, on the boundary line, 9 conscripts; at Dérékioï, north-east of Kirk-Kilissa, 39 conscripts; at Fikili, four hours north of Adrianople, 21 conscripts; and at Yeni-Kioï, three hours from this in the same direction, 6 conscripts have been drawn. The circumstances which have been reported to me in connection with the last-named place serve conclusively to show that this is not a volunteer movement. The Russian officer charged with the duty presented himself at Yeni-Kioï three days ago. Four young men were drawn. Two of these, however, effected their escape the same day. The officer thereupon required from the village four other men instead. That number was accordingly further drawn, and the six conscripts were brought to the Commandant at Hasskioï by the Bulgarian head-man of Yeni-Kioï, who had been made responsible for their appearance.

The conscripts are being collected at the three following places:—Philippopolis and Hasskioï in Eastern Roumelia, and Mustafa-Pasha in the Province of Adrianople.

The inhabitants of Orlakioï, at the foot of the Rhodope hills, and of other Greek and Bulgarian villages in that neighbourhood, compromised in the excesses which led to the Mussulman rising in that quarter, and who, not without reason, are apprehensive of a day of reckoning when the Russian occupation comes to an end, drew up an address to the military authorities here a few weeks ago expressing their fears of the consequences of a withdrawal of the army, and praying for a prolongation of its stay in this province.

An agitation in the same sense has since been set on foot among the Bulgarian, Greek, and Armenian communities in this town and in the rural districts. On the Emperor's name-day, the 12th instant, among other demonstrations, a large Greek flag was displayed before the Government konak, along with a number of smaller Russian ones, and the united colours were afterwards carried through the streets amidst great acclamations and rejoicings, all, I am credibly informed, duly provided and paid for. Within the last few days an address to the same general purport as that from Orlakioï has been circulated, though not openly or indiscriminately, among certain sections of the different Christian communities for signature. I hope to be able shortly to forward to your Excellency a copy of this document, which has been promised me.

The immediate promoters of these pro-Russian movements are known to be certain Greeks of good standing here whose interests are bound up with the present régime, not only through contracts for military supplies, but, there is reason to believe, also through the pillage and other excesses in the Orlakioï district above referred to, which, according to common report, were organized by them out of covetous motives, and were connived at by the authorities as serving the ends of Russian policy.

That policy, it may here be remarked, evidently aims at the same time at bringing the terrorized Mussulman population to cling to the Russian troops for protection against their Christian persecutors. Nor has it been without success, as more than one recent Report from me will have shown.

In addition to the above circumstances, all indicative of a disposition to depart from the terms of the Treaty of Berlin, I may mention that there are numerous signs, some of them not the less significant from being of a trivial and unstudied character, to show that there is at least a question of prolonging the Russian occupation of Adrianople through the winter. The intention to do so is, indeed, now loudly proclaimed by officers of every grade here; and the assertion is supported by the nature and extent of the preparations which are being made for the reception of General Todleben, his Staff, and army.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

Inclosure 4 in No. 99.

Acting Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Adrianople, September 22, 1878.

WITH reference to the signs of an intention to prolong the Russian occupation of Adrianople through the winter, mentioned in my last despatch to your Excellency of to-day's date, I may here state, confidentially, that the existence of such an intention has been confirmed in private conversation with a person in whom I have perfect confidence—by no less an authority than General Stalikin, lately Governor of Philippopolis, and who has now replaced General von Delingshausen in the command of the 5th Division here.

It seems probable that the truth of the matter has been correctly stated by another officer, whose name has not been mentioned to me, but who, I am assured on reliable authority, is in a position to know. This officer mentioned, also in private conversation, that the object of the meeting which took place the day before yesterday between General Todleben from San Stefano and Prince Dondoukoff from Philippopolis, and which only lasted a few hours, was to hold a military Council on the course to be pursued; that whilst the former advocated a retirement of the army into Eastern Roumelia, and the holding of certain strategic points there, the latter argued strongly in favour of prolonging the occupation of Adrianople; and that the Commander-in-chief has gone to Livadia, in order to lay the arguments in favour of either course before the Czar, with whom it will rest to decide.

I give the foregoing statement for what it may be worth, for Russian officers of all ranks are, it is true, singularly reckless in their assertions. At the same time, they are no less remarkably unguarded and indiscreet of speech; and, upon the whole, it does not seem improbable that the information, agreeing as it does with all the known circumstances of the case, is well founded.

I may add that an officer here in high and responsible command, who was expressing himself in very decided terms on the subject of a further stay of the army in this province, on being met with a remark about the Treaty of Berlin, did not scruple to say (in private conversation always) that the situation had changed since that Treaty was signed, Austria's hands being now tied by her difficulties in Bosnia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

Inclosure 5 in No. 99.

Acting Vice-Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir,

Philippopolis, August 31, 1878.

I AM informed that the sentence of death passed on Hadjis Arif and Shaban Aghas was telegraphed to San Stefano yesterday evening, and that the prisoners were at the same time made aware that they had the right to appeal to the Russian Commander-in-chief against the finding of the Court which condemned them.

Widespread sympathy is felt here for Hadji Shaban Agha, who is known to be a victim, in great measure, of the machinations of a notorious Bulgarian usurer, against whose rapacious claims he had lately made a formal appeal.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 6 in No. 99.

Acting Vice-Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir,

Philippopolis, August 31, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that disorders of a serious character are alleged to have arisen in the mountainous regions lying between the towns of Kistendil, Ishtil, and Sevres.

The Rev. Mr. Clarke, of Samakow, writes to me, under date of the 8th instant, that "the Bulgarians in Raslog Plain (in Bansko, &c.), have been trying to cause

disturbances, so as to provoke retaliation, in hope that the Russians would come and take possession. The Turks of that place are very wise and guarded, and have avoided giving any such pretext."

Elsewhere in his letter Mr. Clarke says: "I think I have written you of the outrages of the Bulgarians upon the Turks, when the latter fled from that place."*

Mr. Locke, another of the American missionaries, who has just arrived from Samakow, informs me that the Russians have lately withdrawn from Djumaa, in the Raslog district,† and adds that the Bulgarians are trying to get up an insurrection, not only in that district, but also further in the interior of Macedonia. The revolutionary agents appear to be chiefly disbanded soldiers of the "Legion," who have lately established themselves in the hills, and live by robbery.

They have lately, Mr. Locke adds, been buying great quantities of ammunition in Samakow, and conveying it over the border.

To-day it is reported here from other sources that a sanguinary engagement has been fought between Turks and Bulgars in the hilly country south of Samakow.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 7 in No. 99.

Acting Vice-Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Philippopolis, August* 31, 1878.

SOME further details of the trial of Hadjis Arif and Shaban Aghas, which I have learnt from different sources, added to the circumstances which I have already reported to your Excellency in connection with the trial, compel me to qualify it as a mockery of justice.

It will be sufficient for me to state that two of the witnesses, M. Joachim Gröneff and Dr. Wlados, who had been examined at the preliminary interrogatory, were not called to repeat their evidence at the public trial. Their depositions were favourable to the accused.

All that can be said to have been proved against either of the prisoners was that persons in the service of Arif Agha, and the sons of both Arif Agha and Shaban Agha, took part in the attacks on Bulgarian villages in 1876 and last year. The only way in which the guilt of complicity in the massacres could have been fixed upon the accused would have been to have confronted them with the actual perpetrators of those massacres, and to have taken down the statements of the latter as to whether they had or not acted by the orders of the Aghas. But this was not, and indeed could not be, done, the perpetrators of the massacres not having returned to Philippopolis.

Hadji Shaban Agha's eldest son, who took part in the expeditions against the Bulgarians, was a notorious evil-doer, and had been the cause of much affliction to his father, who for years past used openly to deplore the young man's conduct.

During the trial on the 20th instant, much unbecoming behaviour among the spectators was tolerated in Court. The fez of Hadji Shaban Agha's second son, who was present, was twice snatched from his head, and only recovered by the resolute interference of Herr Dietz, correspondent of the "Politische Correspondenz," who sat by his side. The offender, in the first instance, was a Bulgarian soldier; the second time the young man's fez was snatched off by a Bulgarian officer attached to Prince Dondoukoff's suite.

The leading Bulgarians here pretend to be grieved at Shaban Agha's condemnation. In some cases, I believe, the feeling is genuine; but they will not give a practical proof of their sympathy by getting up, as I have suggested to some of them, a petition to the Russian authorities for a remission of his sentence.

On their way back to prison, after the conclusion of the trial, the unfortunate Aghas were exposed to the jeers of a crowd of Bulgarians who followed them.

Colonel Constèn, the President of the Tribunal which tried them, has earned for himself an evil reputation here by his brutal treatment of the master and mistress of the house in which he has quartered himself. During the address to the Court of the lawyer defending the prisoners, he was seen to display impatience, and to endeavour by signs to induce the lawyer to cut short his speech.

* No letter containing the information referred to has ever reached me.—F. R. J. C.
† Djumaa being outside the limits of Bulgaria.—F. R. J. C.

It was evident to every impartial spectator that the fate of the prisoners had been decided upon before the Court assembled. In spite of this the condemnation of Hadji Shaban Agha, for whom the evidence of the majority of the witnesses was favourable, occasioned general surprise.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 8 in No. 99.

Acting Vice-Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Philippopolis, September* 16, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that an official reception, followed by a banquet of eighty covers, was given on Wednesday last by Prince Dondoukoff in honour of the Czar's fête.

I was present both at the reception and at the official dinner, as were also my French and Austrian colleagues.

The other guests consisted of the Bulgarian Exarch and the Bulgarian Archbishop of Philippopolis, who were given the places of honour, the Exarch being seated on the right hand and the Archbishop on the left of the Imperial Commissioner; the Armenian and Roman Catholic Bishops, the principal Russian and Bulgarian officials, and the chief officers of the Commissioner's staff.

The Greek Archbishop, who was also invited, excused himself from being present.

The dinner was followed in the evening by a review of the Bulgarian troops of the first levy; and the same troops, to the number of about 5,000, took part on the following evening in a sham fight, representing the attack and capture of Philippopolis. Russian troops were the defenders, and the Bulgarian troops the assailants.

Though the latter exhibited (considering the short time they have been under arms) a remarkable steadiness in marching and going through the ordinary movements of their drill, it appeared to me that they did not show much spirit or activity in the final assault.

These 5,000 troops of the first levy have since the review been dispersed, three out of the eight battalions going to Sofia, three to Slimnia, and two remaining at Philippopolis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 9 in No. 99.

Acting Vice-Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Confidential.

Sir, *Philippopolis, September* 16, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that yesterday, as I am informed, a secret meeting was held at the house of the Bulgarian Archbishop for the purpose of deliberating on the further steps to be taken in view of the approaching arrival of the International Commission.

The leading spokesmen at this meeting, according to my informant, were Messrs. John Gueshoff, N. Jovantcho Hadji Mintchoff, Nicolas Shishedji, and Drinoff.

My informant further states that a protest was drawn up, in Bulgarian and French, by the assembled agitators, which is to be placed in the hands of, and signed by, the Bulgarian peasantry, and will purport to be a spontaneous expression of the popular feeling; and that three priests of influence in the country (Pope Stoïco, of Karshi-Aka, Pope Elia, of Carlowa, and Hadji Pope, of Tatar-Bazardjik) were forthwith dispatched into the interior, with instructions from the Archbishop to assist the Kyr-Aghalary in their efforts to persuade the peasantry to join in the monster demonstration which (as I have already reported to your Excellency) is being organized for the edification of the International Commission.

If my information be correct, two delegates, according to the plan decided upon yesterday, are to be sent by each Bulgarian village of the province, and the deputation thus formed, to the number probably of several hundreds of peasants, will await the

Commissioners at the railway station, and hand to them the protest immediately on their alighting from the train.

The protest is, I am given to understand, couched in no measured language, and reiterates the unshakeable determination of the Bulgarians of Roumelia to resist by force the re-establishment of Turkish rule.

My French colleague was yesterday informed confidentially, by a Polish contractor, who has engaged to furnish the Russian troops of occupation, from Adrianople to Sofia, with provisions and forage, that the number of the troops whom he has undertaken to feed is 150,000, including the Bulgarian militia; that his written contract is for 100,000 men only, but that he was told privately by the Director of the Commissariat that 50,000 men more than the number stated in the contract would have to be provided for.

The Pomak insurgents are reported to have descended into the plain in the Hasskeui district a few days ago, and to have engaged in an encounter with the Russians, in which they were worsted and driven back into the hills.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

No. 100.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 4.)

(No. 1195.) [B.B.] *Therapia, September* 27, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship copies of despatches which have been received from Her Majesty's Consuls and Vice-Consuls at Salonica, Varna, Prevesa, Rodosto, and Salonica upon the state of affairs in their respective districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 100.

Acting Consul Barker to Sir A. H. Layard.

Salonica, September 17, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the Albanians in insurrection threaten to make a raid on the railway, and take possession of the line.

The Vali has not yet received official intimation of their having done so, but great apprehension exists at Mitrovitza and all down the line that they are about to do so. The two regiments who went up lately will not be able to prevent the railway falling into the hands of the Albanians.

The insurgent Chief of the Rhodope Mountains, Colonel St. Clair, or Sinclair, arrived here yesterday, together with another Englishman, by the French Messageries' boat.

Miss Yule, correspondent of the "Pall Mall" and other papers, has been here, and leaves to-day by rail, hoping to be able to go on to Belgrade.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 100.

Consul R. Reade to Sir A. H. Layard.

Varna, September 19, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that General Vannowsky, Commander-in-chief of the Russian forces in Bulgaria, has established his head-quarters here.

Shumla has been completely evacuated. Major-General Riza Pasha has been left behind to arrange with the Russians about the Ottoman military property there, such as barracks, hospitals, mills, ovens, &c.

The evacuation of Varna is progressing slowly from the want of transports.

The Russian Governor of Rustchuk, General Aslimoff, having given up to me the British Consular house, I am now able to return permanently to my post.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 100.

Consul R. Reade to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Confidential.) *Varna, September* 19, 1878.

Sir,

WHILST at Rustchuk a few days ago I was informed by one of my colleagues that the Bulgarian Archbishop had just paid him a visit, during which he spoke in the bitterest terms of the Russians. He said, "the devil brought them here, may the devil rid us of them."

He, moreover, told my colleague that he had ordered all his diacres (deacons) to study German, and also that this language be taught in all in the Bulgarian schools. This, he said, was done in hopes that Austria may take the place of Russia in this quarter.

The Archbishop being a prelate of great influence and position in Bulgaria, this matter may be of some importance.

The Russians are doing their utmost to squeeze money out of the Bulgars, who have to pay very heavy imposts and fines for very trifling matters.

I believe this to be the principal cause of the present state of feeling of many of the Bulgars, who, when they can, express their regret for the Turks; but, as I told one of them, they have only to thank themselves for what they are now complaining of.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 4 in No. 100.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Sir A. H. Layard.

Prevesa, September 14, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Excellency that about 1,700 soldiers from Bosnia were landed here on Tuesday last by two Austrian steamers. The above two steamers, which belong to the Austrian Lloyd's Company, were accompanied by an Austrian ironclad.

M. Kypriotis continues to report on the unsettled state of North Epirus, which appears to be at the mercy of numerous bands of brigands, but that which is still more to be regretted is that in a private letter, dated 9th instant, he writes as follows:—

"Complaints reach us from everywhere of outrages committed even by the regular troops, which are sent to pursue the brigands."

He then adds:—

"The outrages, however, which are being committed by the latter against the Christians are not less in number. It appears, therefore, that the peaceful inhabitants suffer from both. In Vovvissa the brigands killed one of the wealthy inhabitants named Kazani; they also carried off one of his sons. And on Saturday last at Vanista, a village situated about an hour's distance from Janina, a body of armed men, said to have been Mustafizas, pillaged the houses and carried off everything that was of value; they also bayonetted one of the inhabitants."

I avail myself of the present opportunity to inclose, for your Excellency's information, copy of my despatch, dated 7th instant, in reply to a despatch from Mr. Consul Blunt, calling for information on the subject of Mr. Corbett's despatch, dated Athens, 8th August, to the Marquis of Salisbury, stating that he has been informed by M. Commoundouros that numerous outrages have been committed by the Turkish soldiers in Macedonia, Epirus, and Thessaly.

I respectfully beg leave to remark, however, that my answer to Mr. Consul Blunt's despatch was written two days before M. Kypriotis' letter, so that I was entirely ignorant at the time of the alleged charges against the military.

Ibrahim Pasha started again from Janina on the 5th instant, with two mountain-guns, one battalion of Redifs, and one battalion of Mustafizas, to pursue the brigands.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 5 in No. 100.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Consul Blunt.

Sir, *Prevesa, September 7*, 1878.

YOUR despatch dated Larissa, 31st August, calling on me to furnish you with information on the subject of Mr. Corbett's despatch of the 8th August to the Marquis of Salisbury, reached me late last night. I have therefore the honour to reply to your despatch by stating that I have no knowledge whatever of the numerous letters which the Christian inhabitants of Epirus have addressed to M. Comnoundouros complaining of outrages committed against their persons and property by the Turkish troops. As to the charge itself, all that I am in a position to state is that during the late war between Turkey and Russia, and at which time this district was entirely garrisoned by Albanian Redifs and Bashi-Bazouks, several, and perhaps many, cases of robberies, all of which I have duly reported to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, have been committed; but since the end of the war, and the introduction to this district of regular troops, not a single complaint, with the exception of one or two almost trifling cases, has to my knowledge been lodged against the troops, and, on the contrary, every impartial observer seems ready to praise their good behaviour.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 6 in No. 100.

Vice-Consul Dussi to Sir A. H. Layard.

Excellence, *Rodosto, le 16 Septembre*, 1878.

JE suis honoré par votre dépêche du 9 courant, à la suite de laquelle je suis entré en relations officielles avec les autorités locales Russes.

Du 25 Août dernier jusqu'à ce jour neuf bateaux ont chargé des troupes pour la Russie.

Les premiers six ont reçu trois régiments de cavalerie et une batterie d'artillerie, et les trois derniers de l'infanterie, avec le respectif matériel roulant.

L'infanterie et artillerie qui occupaient Kiechan marche sur notre ville; la route de Malgara à Rodosto en est encombrée.

Journellement des régiments d'infanterie et artillerie arrivent ici, et continuent leur marche vers Héraclée, où a lieu l'embarquement.

Quinze bateaux ont déjà quitté Héraclée chargés d'infanterie et d'artillerie.

Depuis que les Russes, prenant la direction des affaires civiles, ont rétiré le Gouvernement Provisoire des mains des Grecs, les routes étant plus sûres, le commerce a repris de son animation. Les Turcs fugitifs rentraient dans leurs foyers reprendre leurs travaux, et ceux qui avaient perdu le bétail s'accordant aux Chrétiens indigènes faisaient travailler en social.

Malheureusement il y a quelques jours l'aspect du pays a complétement changé.

Les Chrétiens du district de Malgara se sont formés en bandes, et sans aucun respect pour la loi, parcourent les villages Turcs, Kirali, Avrent, Koutchouk-kádir, du même district de Malgara, et le village Turc Evrembekeui, du district de Kairohol, et non loin de Malgara, en enlevant par la force tout le bétail, de façon que les Musulmans ont été obligés, craignant pour leur vie, d'abandonner leurs villages.

Le Moukhtar du village Kirali a porté plainte par devant les autorités contre les pillards qui ont enlevé 200 pièces de gros bétail au seul village de Kirali; mais l'autorité civile ainsi que la militaire Russe, n'ont pas, au dire du Moukhtar, accepté la pétition qu'il a voulu me remettre, et que je transmets en original à votre Excellence.

Le voyant repoussé, le Moukhtar avec plusieurs autres villageois ont lancé télégraphiquement plusieurs demandes de protection au Gouverneur-Général d'Andrinople et au Général Todleben.

A l'instant je viens d'être avisé par un de mes agents venant de l'intérieur que cinquante* pièces d'artillerie, avec caisses et munitions, qui se trouvaient dans la plaine de Rodosto, ont exécuté Dimanche un mouvement rétrograde et sont allées s'établir à Malgara. Diverses compagnies d'infanterie ont été détachées de Husun-Kioupru et ont occupé nouvellement Kiechan et Malgara, qui avaient été évacués.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) M. DUSSI.

Inclosure 7 in No. 100.

Vice-Consul Dussi to Sir A. H. Layard.

Excellence, *Rodosto, le 21 Septembre*, 1878.

J'AI l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance, que dans mon dernier Rapport vous entretenant sur le retour d'un corps d'artillerie à Malgara, je vous notais les canons au nombre de cinquante.

Par des informations atteintes d'un officier Russe j'ai su que dix seulement étaient les canons et non cinquante, mais qu'il y avait bon nombre de caissons; c'est pourquoi j'ai cru de mon devoir vous informer par le fil.

Comme il paraît le Colonel Commandant le corps d'artillerie avait sans ordre préalable évacué le district; c'est pourquoi il lui a été enjoint de reprendre ses positions.

L'embarquement des troupes s'effectue avec une grande activité jour et nuit; trois bateaux chargent.

Depuis mon dernier Rapport neuf bateaux ont chargés des troupes et deux se trouvent actuellement sur rade, chargeant de l'artillerie et de l'infanterie; la même activité règne à Héraclée, d'où ont été chargés trente bateaux.

Par mon dernier Rapport j'avais l'honneur de donner à votre Excellence des informations au sujet des pillages qui se commettaient à la charge des Turcs dans le district de Malgara. Le devoir m'oblige d'informer votre Excellence que le mal au lieu de calmer se propage.

Des bandes de Chrétiens très-nombreuses armées ont attaqués les villages Turcs Ahmetcha, Kinikhar, et Atchali du Canton d'Inedjik, en enlevant tout le bétail. Non contents du pillage ils ont tué quatre personnes, dont deux femmes du village Ahmetcha, ainsi que blessé trois femmes très-grièvement lesquelles ont été transportées ici dans un état des plus pitoyables.

J'ai immédiatement chargé le médecin du Comité Central du traitement de ces infortunées, et j'espère que l'art les sauvera.

Il est utile que je fasse observer à votre Excellence que les autorités Russes prêtent une oreille indifférente aux justes réclamations des pauvres Turcs.

Il serait désirable que cet état de choses change, car tous en souffrent.

(Signé) M. DUSSI.

Inclosure 8 in No. 100.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Larissa, September 16*, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a further Report from Colonel Synge, furnishing some information upon the state of affairs in the districts of Karaferia and Catterina, in Macedonia, which he recently visited.

The Report gives a list of ten brigand bands who frequent the district of Karaferia, and are mostly from over the frontier; as well as a nominal list of nine Mahommedans and eight Christians who were murdered, chiefly by brigands, during the present summer in the same district.

Colonel Synge also refers to the removal of the Circassian colony from the large village of Tchovo, in the district of Catterina, and recommends that Turkish refugee families from the Danubian provinces should be sent there in their stead.

I believe there are more than 350 cottages in this village; and Colonel Synge

* This should be ten, as stated in the following Inclosure.

tells me that the Turkish military authorities have taken measures for their protection from injury.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 9 in No. 100.

Colonel Synge to Consul Blunt.

Larissa, September 16, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your information, the following notes collected during my recent visit to Kavaferia (Verria) and Catterina.

The district of Kavaferia continues to be frequented by prowling bands who, however, refrain from descending into the plains, but confine themselves to the mountains. I append a return of these bands, who are mostly from over the frontiers:—

Chiefs of Bands.	Approximate Number of Men in each Band.
Panayoti Cabouroes	60 to 70
Gudzanes and Papadis	30 to 40
Alexi Spiros Sachatchanes	38
Vaghdi and Zervada	25
Dimitri Makrangno	5 to 10
Copitzes Vasili and Kanakos	20
Jatzos and Chatzo Bakaros	20
Nusso	15
Dasalos	15
Yani Tchobaky	10 to 15

There are also smaller bands and individuals who roam over the mountains.

I also furnish the following list of persons killed, chiefly by brigands, during the present summer in the district of Kavaferia:—

Name of Victim.	Where Killed.
Temovreeh Muharrem	Milovi.
Hussein Agha	Ditto.
1 private, name unknown	Mavranghel.
Zacho Giata-Dranista	Near Catterina.
A Kirageo, name unknown	Near Lientochori.
Ibiar Aza's son (Mulatbrin)	Near Catterina.
Zaptieh Hussen Agha	Karáli Dervent.
3 wood cutters, names unknown	Kaiyular.
1 Christian, name unknown	Rodneri Tchiflik.
Mehmed Agha	Pondo Kissos.
Tchaous Mustapha	Near Catterina.
4 Lientochorites, names unknown	Ditto.

Total: seventeen persons, of whom nine were Mussulmans and eight Christians.

The crops in these districts are unusually short, little more than the seed being returned.

The loss to the Government must be great, as the tithes cannot amount to more than one-sixth of the ordinary revenue.

The cattle disease continues to ravage the herds of the district; at present the villages of Lientochori and Yeni-kioi are suffering from it, and it must speedily arrive at Catterina.

The type does not appear to be so virulent as some months back, about one-third of the cattle escaping.

I found that 700 of the Circassians of Tchayo had embarked from Catterina for Beyrouth, and about 850 remained at Catterina awaiting embarkation. There is some suffering from fever, unusually prevalent this year.

Amongst the troops also there is much fever, aggravated by a dearth of quinine.

It is worthy of consideration whether the Government village of Tchayo, now abandoned by the Circassians, would not be a good point at which to establish some of the refugee families from the Danubian provinces. I was informed that the houses

were in good order, and that there is land at least for 100 pairs of cattle to work. The greatest drawback is the presence of cattle disease in the vicinity, which would prevent emigrants from bringing their own cattle, and would render it unadvisable for the time to furnish new comers with cattle, but with the assistance from neighbouring villages a crop might be got in before the season passes.

There are at present in the province of Macedonia, including Kossova, 170,000 refugees.

There are numerous other Government properties throughout the province.

The following "konaks," or dwelling-houses on Turkish estates in the district of Kavaferia were burned by the insurgent bands during the late rising:—

Vorsova, Cocova, Sporiti, Paratiza, Cocova-konak, Melenik, Inek-Asri, Budrin, Peraki, Mavroanghéli, Grizaal, and Prothemo—twelve in all.

The proprietors suffered also severe losses in cattle, grain, &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HY. SYNGE.

Inclosure 10 in No. 100.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Confidential.)

Larissa, September 17, 1878.

Sir,

THE following is an extract of a letter, dated the 9th instant, which Saïd Pasha, the Governor of Thessaly, has received from Photiades Bey, the Ottoman Minister at Athens, and which he confidentially communicated to me last night:—

"Pour ce qui est de la situation en Grèce, je dois annoncer à votre Excellence que sur l'ordre du Gouvernement Hellénique les préparatifs militaires sont poursuivis avec énergie, et que des efforts sont déployés en vue de la concentration d'une armée de 40,000 soldats, avec une réserve de 35,000 hommes. Les dépenses seront couvertes par un emprunt de 50,000,000 fr., que le Gouvernement Hellénique négocie en Europe et qui, à ce que j'apprends, est en bonne voie."

Ali Saïb Pasha, the Commander-in-chief in Thessaly, has also received reports from the border authorities in confirmation of the above intelligence.

He has applied to the Porte for reinforcements.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 101.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 1197.) [B.B.]

Therapia, September 27, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Consul Blunt, reporting the result of the inquiries which he made by my direction relative to the outrages alleged to have been committed by the Ottoman troops in Macedonia, Epirus, and Thessaly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 101.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Larissa, September 14, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch of the 12th instant, which only reached me on the 31st idem, inclosing copy of a despatch addressed by Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury, stating that he has been informed by M. Commoundouros that numerous outrages have been committed by the Ottoman troops, both regular and irregular, in Macedonia, Epirus, And Thessaly.

From the inquiries which, in compliance with your Excellency's instructions, I have so far made, and caused to be made, it does not appear that M. Commoundouros has been correctly informed upon the conduct of the Ottoman troops in Thessaly.

With reference to the alleged presence of irregular troops in this province, I may at once assure your Excellency that the promise which was given by the Porte to Her Majesty's Embassy in May last, not to employ Bashi-Bazouks or irregulars in Thessaly, has been faithfully observed by the provincial authorities.

Your Excellency will learn from the inclosed Reports from Mr. Vice-Consul Suter, Colonel Synge, and Mr. Longworth, that the grievances generally complained of are not of a serious nature; and that in some instances they are not confined to the Christians alone, but also affect the Turkish village populations, with this difference, that the latter do not complain.

Both Colonel Synge and Mr. Longworth have availed themselves of the ample opportunities they have had during their frequent visits to the villages in districts of Armyro, Pharsala, Domoko, Carditza, Tricalla, Allassona, Catterina, Yenidjeh (Ayia) Dereli, and Karaferia (Verria), to test the value of the rumours which are circulated regarding the condition and grievances of the Christian inhabitants in this province; and I have not failed to forward to your Excellency their Reports on the subject in the order they reached me.

M. Palamides, the Hellenic Consul at Larissa, has been most impatient to show that the unfortunate and deplorable incident at Verdi-Koussia was a premeditated attack on, and a massacre of, the population in that village. At first he assured me that thirty-eight women and children had been massacred by the troops, which number was subsequently increased to fifty-four by the accounts published by the Greek press; after he heard of the result of the inquiries which were made by the Commission sent to investigate the matter on the spot, he admitted to me that he had been misinformed as to the number of the victims, but maintained that the act had been committed wantonly by the troops.

Colonel Synge's account of the occurrences at Verdi-Koussia was forwarded in my despatch to your Excellency of the 29th July last.

The battalion of infantry which was employed on this occasion in pursuit of brigands at Verdi-Koussia and other localities in the district of Allassona, has been removed to Larissa; and I am assured by the Commander-in-chief that the soldiers who had plundered some of the houses in that village are still detained in prison here.

I should also add that the relatives of the villagers who suffered by the late occurrences at Verdi-Koussia have obtained for them, through my intervention with the local authorities, the remission of one year's taxes; and they tell me that their wounded, six in number, are well taken care of by the military hospital authorities at Tirnova; and that there is every hope that five of them will soon recover from the effects of their injuries.

On the 10th July last the Hellenic Consul at Larissa placed in my hands a Memorial addressed to me in Greek by the Bishop and inhabitants of Pantelimona, in district of Catterina, complaining of the misconduct of the Ottoman troops stationed there.

As Catterina is in Macedonia, and not in Thessaly, and under the jurisdiction of the Pasha of Salonica, I immediately forwarded the Memorial in question to Mr. Consul Barker, who is acting for me at Salonica, and requested him to bring under the notice of the authorities there the complaints it embodied, which chiefly referred to military requisitions for quarters and supplies, and to the cutting down of fruit trees for firewood, and other similar grievances.

I regret I have not kept a copy of this Memorial, but I inclose herewith copies of my correspondence with Mr. Barker on the subject.

In my despatch of the 17th July last, I reported to your Excellency that some troopers of a Turkish patrol had cut off the heads of three brigands whom they killed in a conflict near Tirnova, and publicly exposed and barbarously treated them in that town. The men who were guilty of this outrage are still under arrest. A similar outrage was perpetrated by some Christian villagers of Goura, in the district of Armyro, upon the bodies of three Greek brigands they killed in August last in the vicinity of that village, as reported in my despatch of the 2nd instant.

In another despatch, dated the 12th ultimo, furnishing items of information upon the state of affairs in Thessaly, I forwarded to your Excellency a Report from Colonel Synge, in which he refers to the case of Demo Massoura, of the village of Nezero, in the sub-district of Dereli, who was taken for a brigand, and shot and bayoneted by the troops.

According to the inquiry which the military authorities instituted into this case, it appears that Demo, while leaving the village, armed as he was with rifle and

pistols, in the early dawn of the morning, unexpectedly came upon a detachment of troops in quest of brigands, and was shot by them in attempting to run away. He has left a widow and three children in utter want and distress; and as the poor man enjoyed a good character, and his village took no part in the late insurrection, the Government, I venture to submit, is bound to do something for his unfortunate family.

I have adverted to the principal cases which have come to my knowledge as involving the conduct of the Ottoman troops in the several districts of Thessaly visited by Colonel Synge and Mr. Longworth.

With regard to the troops quartered in this town, as well as those encamped outside of it—about 4,000 in number—who have come more immediately under my observation, I cannot speak too highly of them. They show no fanatical or licentious spirit, are kept in excellent order and discipline, and comport themselves in a praiseworthy manner towards all classes of the inhabitants. It is a fact worthy of notice that, during the last five months these troops have been in garrison in this town, one soldier only has been reported drunk, and he was summarily punished by the Major-General Iskender Pasha, who was in command here at the time.

When we consider that most of these troops belonged to Suleiman Pasha's army, which was dispersed during his flight over the Rhodope Mountains, that nearly all of them have been under arms three or four years without pay, and that two-thirds of them were recruited in the very districts in Bulgaria and Roumelia whose inhabitants have been massacred wholesale by the Bulgarians and Russians, their conduct towards the Christians here, and the sobriety, fortitude, and resignation they practise, are entitled to our admiration and respect.

But if, as is shown, the population of Thessaly has no real grievances against these troops, there is no doubt that it is seriously affected, in common with that of Epirus and Macedonia, by evils to be attributed partly to normal and partly to exceptional causes.

Under the first head may be included the abuses and defects of the judicial power, the corruption and apathy of the governing classes, the vicious system of taxation, and dilapidation of the public revenue, and an inefficient police; while under the second head we have the constant movement of troops, accompanied by the usual and harassing requisitions for supplies, quarters, and transport, the scarcity of money, and growing depression of trade and industry, the uncertainty of the political situation, caused by the unfriendly relations between Greece and Turkey, and lastly, brigandage on a formidable scale, which increases the discontent and distress produced by the late insurrection.

From all I observe and hear, there is strong reason to believe that the continuance of some of these elements of trouble and agitation is in a great measure due to the machinations of the insurrectionary propaganda in Greece, and to a portion of the Greek press. I am assured that some of the principal brigand bands which now infest the Turkish Greek provinces were originally recruited in Greece, under the auspices of this propaganda, and are carrying on their depredations with its encouragement and support. As for the Greek newspapers, many of them continue to publish virulent attacks and unscrupulous misrepresentations against the Turkish Government and inhabitants, evidently with the object of keeping up an incessant agitation on both sides of the border, and of misleading European public opinion on the state of affairs in these provinces.

"Sphagai ton Christianon" (massacre of the Christians) is a stereotyped accusation which has been used *ad nauseam* by these newspapers against the Turkish troops and inhabitants in Thessaly, Epirus, and Macedonia.

Now it appears from the subjoined Return, compiled from information which I have procured from Greek and Turkish sources, that from the date of the amnesty which was granted to the insurgents, the 6th May last, to the present day, a period of little over four months, fifty-two persons, including one woman, have been murdered in the Province of Thessaly, nearly all of them by brigands. This frightful destruction of innocent lives comprises ten Christians and forty-two Mahommedans.

RETURN of Murders perpetrated in the several Districts of Thessaly between the 6th May and the 14th September, 1878.

Names of Districts.	Persons Murdered.			Remarks.
	Christians.	Turks.	Total.	
Volo	1	Nil	1	Killed September 12, 1878.
Trieddia, Carditza, and sub-districts	4	22	26	Including eleven unarmed Turkish deserters.
Larissa and sub-districts ..	4	Nil	4	Including one woman.
Phersala and Domoko ..	Nil	4	4	Circassians.
Armyro	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Tirnovo	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Allassona	1	16	17	Including nine Turkish labourers.
Total	10	42	52	

As your Excellency will have gathered from this Report, brigandage, which forms the most abundant source of trouble and disturbance in this province, is the result of the strained state of relations between Greece and Turkey; and I venture to submit there is little hope of its being successfully suppressed so long as these relations do not improve and arrive at a point which will enable the border authorities of both Governments to co-operate cordially in adopting measures against it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 101.

Vice-Consul Suter to Consul Blunt.

Volo, September 2, 1878.

Sir,

IN reply to your letter of the 31st ultimo, handing me a copy of a despatch addressed by Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury, stating that he has been informed that numerous outrages have been committed by the Turkish soldiers in Macedonia, Epirus, and Thessaly, and directing me to ascertain and report to you what truth there is in the above account as regards the district of Volo, I have the honour to inform you that the troops stationed at Volo consist of four and a-half battalions of regular infantry. Of these two and a-half battalions are quartered and stationed in the barrack and in the citadel, at the extremity of the town. One battalion is encamped on the heights above the road, near Pilaf Tepeh, leading towards Larissa; and the last one occupies tents in the vicinity of Macrinitza, on Mount Pelion, for the service of the mountain villages in that direction.

At this season, when fruit abounds in the orchards and vineyards, it cannot be wondered at if the soldiers quartered in their neighbourhood commit depredations. These, however, are the chief subjects of complaint against them; and I am able to state, as the result of my inquiries in all directions on the subject, that, since the disturbed state of this district caused last spring, no charge of outrage or even serious violence can be brought against the troops here, of whose uniform general good conduct all unite in speaking with praise.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HY. SUTER.

Inclosure 3 in No. 101.

Colonel Synge to Consul Blunt.

Larissa, September 12, 1878.

Sir,

WITH reference to your despatch dated 31st August, 1878, I have the honour to inform you that I have made inquiries concerning the alleged misconduct of the Turkish troops in the districts of Karaferia, Catterina, and several villages of Allassona. I requested the townspeople and villagers to write down and furnish me with any charges that they might have against the troops, with the following results, showing such complaints as are made to be of a most trivial nature:—

In the Karaferia district the villagers stated that the troops took their melons and grapes from the fields and vineyards; and that when quartered in the villages they gave more barley to their horses than was paid for; and ate fowls, honey, and such like. From the losses of fruit, Mussulmans and Christians suffer alike, but the former make no complaints.

The Greek Bishop of Campania told me he had been insulted by a Yuz-bashi, but on complaint being laid, he was immediately made a prisoner.

At Catterina, the complaints embodied in a document furnished by the townspeople amount to depredations committed on the fields of maize, the young heads of which are eaten roasted; and the bât-horses of the troops were allowed to browse in the fields; also that when their carts were requisitioned for military purposes, the beasts were driven too fast. I have quoted these complaints to show the trivial nature of the charges preferred against the troops.

At Catterina, I had the opportunity of a market-day, when villagers come from long distances in the surrounding districts, to make inquiries concerning the more remote villages. From Retina the only complaint was that the soldiers took grapes from the vineyards; from Dranista the same.

At Milia, in the Allassona district, the villagers said that the troops were accompanied by four Albanians acting as guides and interpreters, Greek being the language spoken in these districts, and few of the military officers are acquainted with it, and that these Albanians took money from them—on one occasion 6 lire; on another 15 medjidies.

At Shashano, in the Allassona district, the villagers complained against a certain Circassian Yuz-bashi, who maltreated them, but said the rest of the troops behaved well. They said if the officer tells them to eat dry bread, they eat dry bread; if he tells them to sleep out in the open, they sleep out in the open.

Attempts may be occasionally made by superior officers, acting in conjunction with the civil authorities, to extort money from the richer members of the community on the charge of supporting and assisting the brigand bands; but it is also the case that the same individuals are always chosen by the brigands on whom to draw for their supplies, as being more able to bear their exactions, and having property at the mercy of the brigands, they are more able to command them.

With regard to the reference to irregular troops in the copy of Mr. Corbett's despatch forwarded, I have the honour to state that I have neither seen nor heard of any in the districts I have visited.

In conclusion, in a country where the population sympathizes with the political bands, and numbers many confederates with the brigand bands, it is extremely difficult for troops to perform the harassing duties which devolve upon them without incurring dislike and ill-will.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. SYNGE.

Inclosure 4 in No. 101.

Mr. Longworth to Consul Blunt.

(Extract.) *Armyro, August 10, 1878.*

YOU want to know what relationship exists between the Turkish and Greek officers and men along this border. I can only say that if it is not friendship that is kept up amongst them, it is at least acquaintanceship, for they are constantly exchanging civilities between themselves.

The conduct of the Turkish soldiers under Iskender Pasha continues to be most satisfactory, thanks to the strict and orderly manner in which the Pasha commands them.

Inclosure 5 in No. 101.

Mr. Longworth to Consul Blunt.

Carditza, August 28, 1878.

Sir,

IN accordance with a wish expressed in your despatch of the 15th instant, I have visited Palama, three hours from Carditza.

It is a Christian village of 300 houses, the half of which is a tchiftlik, belonging to Hussein Bey, of Larissa.

Of the villages in the plains of Thessaly it is considered one of the largest.

The inhabitants are purely an agricultural people. They display favourably the thrifty habits and patient industry of the Greeks. The men are very slovenly in appearance, but the women are neat and clean. Their cottages, or rather mud huts, are miserably small and uncomfortable. They consist of one or two rooms, wherein the men, women, and children, together with their animals, huddle in for the night.

From replies to my inquiry whether they had any complaints to make, I have gathered that their principal grievances were those caused by brigands.

They told me that they could not go out in their fields to work, that they could not send their cattle to graze, and that they were not secure even in their homes from the number of robbers lurking in their neighbourhood. These fears have been confirmed, for I have since heard that, in addition to a hostage previously carried off by the brigands, two more had been taken from them the day I left the village.

There is a small force of forty infantry and ten cavalry men posted at Palama, under the command of a captain.

The people spoke very highly of the good conduct of the soldiers. The only complaint was that the captain had appropriated to himself the best house in the place, having turned out a large family of women and children for his own convenience. He, however, consented to shift his quarters after my having spoken to him on the subject.

In conclusion, I have to observe that the condition of the inhabitants of Palama is much the same as those of the other villages of the plains, and that they have suffered very little from the recent events.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 6 in No. 101.

Mr. Longworth to Consul Blunt.

Armyro, September 10, 1878.

Sir,

I BEG to acknowledge your despatch of the 31st ultimo, transmitting to me one of the 8th of the same month, addressed by Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury, acquainting his Lordship of his having been requested by M. Coumoundouros to inform him that the Greek Government have received numerous letters from the Greek inhabitants of Thessaly and Epirus, complaining of outrages committed against their persons and property by Turkish troops, both regular and irregular, and that the Turks are represented as devastating the country.

Agreeably to your instructions, I have now to inform you what truth there is in these reports as regards the districts of Armyro, Pharsala, and Domoko.

Although superfluous, it is necessary here to state that, on the conclusion of hostilities, and at the commencement of the amnesty, all irregular troops had been effectually withdrawn from these parts.

In the district of Armyro there are five battalions of infantry, consisting of nearly 3,000 men, placed under the able command of Major-General Iskender Pasha. The half of this force is encamped at Armyro, and the rest at the principal Mahommedan and Christian villages, and at positions important in maintaining public order and security.

The measures of precaution thus adopted by Iskender Pasha on land have proved most successful. The brigands have been forced to the sea, where their attempts at piracy have also been considerably suppressed by his having had a gun-boat stationed along the shore.

I have made careful inquiries into the conduct of the troops of this district, and find that the Greeks, as well as the Turks, equally praise them for their admirable discipline and exemplary behaviour.

I have heard as yet no one attach to them the blame of theft, of violence, or of insolence; and it is the conviction of the people that no such acts of the soldiers will be allowed to pass with impunity so long as Iskender Pasha is left in command. All the inhabitants join in speaking most highly of this officer, who seems to have won their esteem by his impartiality, his intelligence, and his integrity of character.

The military force in command of Major-General Hassan Pasha consists of 2,000 men at Domoko, and 500 men at Pharsala, the latter being under the direct orders of Major Selim Agha. The reports that reached me concerning these troops during my visits to those parts were not very favourable. A series of misdemeanors were brought against them by the Christians, chiefly comprising of petty acts of violence and robbery. As time, however, prevented me from ascertaining the truth of mere paltry complaints, I cannot now vouch their accuracy, nor can I pronounce them to be false. There must be some foundation to most of them; and I know for certain one instance to be a fact, as it occurred whilst I was at Domoko, and is confirmed by my man, who was an eye-witness to the scene. The case is this:—At a fountain three soldiers pushed aside the servant of the Bishop in order to get at the water first, and on the man protesting at this unfair treatment, he was knocked down and kicked about until he made his escape, the soldiers completing the affair by making away with the Bishop's water-casks. It is strange to add that Hassan Pasha has expressed his inability to discover who these delinquents actually were, although the place was crowded with people at the time of the affray.

The Christian inhabitants of Pharsala and Domoko say that the soldiers have had some share in the recent destruction by fire of their crops and property. I shall report to you further on this subject as soon as I complete my inquiries.

They also complained to me of soldiers going into the vineyards and carrying off their grapes, not by mere clusters, but by loads, and of having hewn down some of their oak trees for kitchen fuel. I asked them whether they had addressed their complaints to Selim Agha, and they replied in the affirmative. I asked what had he to say to the matter, and they answered me that, with regard to the grapes, he said soldiers were also men, and should therefore be allowed to enjoy God's gifts; as regards the trees that it did not much matter, as they were of those which yield no fruit.

Taking the troops of this district as a whole, however, and considering their miserable condition, it is simply astonishing that their conduct is not worse.

Probably it is not so very bad as they try to make one believe, for the Greeks there (Domoko), as nearly everywhere, are given to great exaggeration, and are quite clever at misrepresenting matters. The immediate cause of misconduct in these troops is the want of ordinary vigour and ability in the commanding officer. If Hassan Pasha did not display on ill-timed occasions a drowsy disposition, a lenient character, and an irresolute demeanour, I am firmly convinced that the same good military discipline would prevail among the soldiery of Pharsala and Domoko as among those in command of Iskender Pasha in the district of Armyro.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 7 in No. 101.

Consul Blunt to Acting Consul Barker.

Larissa, July 10, 1878.

Sir,

THE inclosed Memorial from the inhabitants of Pantelimona, in the district of Catterina, complaining of the conduct of the garrison there, was placed in my hands this morning by M. Palamides, the Hellenic Consul here.

As the troops in the district of Catterina are under the immediate orders of the Military Governor of Salonica, I shall feel obliged to you if you will bring the Memorial in question under his notice, and move him to institute an inquiry into the complaints embodied therein.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 8 in No. 101.

Acting Consul Barker to Consul Blunt.

(Extract.) *Salonica, July* 17, 1878.

I DULY received your despatch of the 10th instant, and have obtained the promise from Assaf Pasha that he will do the needful in the matter of the inhabitants of Pantelimona. It seems the guilty parties are Mustahfiz and gipsies—very bad—the worst of regular troops. I will keep reminding him, you may be sure.

No. 102.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 1199.) [B.B.]

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 27, 1878.

IT is with very painful feelings that I transmit to your Lordship the inclosed copy of a despatch just received from Vice-Consul Calvert, relating to the shocking cruelties and outrages inflicted by the Russian and Bulgarian authorities upon the unhappy Mussulman population of Philippopolis. Are there no means of bringing this deplorable state of things to the notice of the Emperor of Russia, and of appealing to his sense of justice and humanity to put an end to proceedings on the part of those who are in his service, or under his protection, which must bring disgrace upon the Russian name? Can Europe be utterly indifferent to the sufferings of these miserable creatures, who, although they may be Turks and Mussulmans, are yet human beings?

I shall cause to be delivered to the Sultan the Memorial inclosed in Mr. Calvert's despatch.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 102.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Philippopolis, September* 25, 1878.

I BEG to send to your Excellency herewith a Memorial in Turkish, addressed to His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, which has been brought to me by the Moukhtars of the different Turkish quarters of Philippopolis, who know of no other safe means of forwarding it than by asking me to beg your Excellency to transmit it to His Majesty.

After enumerating their various hardships and sufferings at the hands of the Russians and Bulgarians, the petitioners, who are all natives of the town of Philippopolis, go on to complain that since yesterday nearly all the able-bodied male Turks of the town have been impressed for the "corvée." The Imam has been dragged from the mosque, the Hodja from their newly reopened school, and the few merchants who have resumed business from the bazaar.

The reason of this general impressment among the resident Turkish population appears to be that all the refugees from the villages, to the number of some thousands, have this week been sent back to their respective districts, and that the Russians are desirous of pushing forward rapidly the works of public improvement they have taken in hand, so as to complete them before the arrival of the Commission.

I will not venture to qualify this proceeding, nor the facts which your Excellency will read below, as I am unacquainted with any word in the official vocabulary strong enough for the purpose. The grossest outrages upon the Turkish refugees have been of late more numerous than ever; those which have come to my knowledge alone would fill a good sized volume, and yet there can be no doubt that not a twentieth part of the persecutions that take place ever come to my knowledge.

I will confine myself in the present despatch to reporting a few recent cases of brutality on the part of the Bulgarian police.

A number of male refugees were beaten by the police at Karshi-Aka on the 19th instant because when about to be sent off to their villages they dared to ask for the money due to them for their labour on the Government works.

Two Turkish women, whose names are among my notes, were severely beaten by the police in the above-named suburb a few days ago because they resisted the violation of their persons by zaptiehs.

Another Turkish woman, named Fatma, widow of Tartar Ali, was on the 14th instant seized in the street, in broad daylight, by a Russian soldier, who tried to drag her into his room; because she resisted, and bit him on the arm, she was taken to the police station at Karshi-Aka (which counts among its unavowed duties that of providing Turkish women for Russian soldiers), by order of the Bulgarian officer in charge she was thrown on her face, and two zaptiehs kept her down, one holding her by the head and the other by the feet, while a third administered to the wretched creature a hundred lashes.

Five days afterwards the order came for the refugees to be sent away, and the same woman received a lash in the eye from the whip of a Bulgarian zaptieh because she begged for a delay, her child being very ill and unable to move.

Fatma ran away from her brutal aggressor and came to me. Her eye was closed and inflamed by the lash of the whip. My housekeeper examined her back, and can testify to the fact of the severe bruises caused by flogging.

I sent for the woman's three children, and had the whole family conveyed to the Compassionate Fund Asylum. She left for Constantinople on Monday with the other inmates of the Asylum, and your Excellency will, therefore, be able to examine her personally if necessary.

Hadjis Shaban and Arif Aghas continue to be most cruelly treated in prison. For the last three days they have had heavy chains wound, in three or four folds, round their waists, and locked in that position, so that the iron, projecting horizontally four or five inches from their bodies, imbeds itself in the flesh whenever they attempt to lie down. Other kinds of ill-treatment are said to have been employed towards them, but I should not like to report them until I have satisfied myself of their truth.

What inference can be drawn from such facts but that it is desired to insure the death of the unhappy prisoners before the arrival of the International Commission, which may be expected to interfere in their behalf?

I beg to inclose, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a recent number of the "Maritza," from which your Excellency will see that the Russo-Bulgarian authorities deny the truth of a most abominable outrage which I reported on the 20th July. They state that an inquiry was held by Russian officers of high rank, the result of which was to prove the complete falsehood of the whole story. I do not wish to insinuate any doubt of the honesty of this inquiry as far as regards the gentlemen who conducted it, but I cannot but fear that the Bulgarian interpreters whom they must have employed misrendered the evidence. All that I know is that the woman, Nazik, was only examined by a Bulgarian police officer, to whom she repeated her story, and that her uncle (her only surviving relative) was, about the same time, thrown into prison, where he was still confined when I last heard of him, ten days ago.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

No. 103.

Colonel Home, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 1.)

My Lord, *Royal Hotel, Pera, September* 21, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 1, dated Foreign Office, 7th September, 1878, informing me that the Queen had been graciously pleased to appoint me to be her Commissioner upon the European Commission for the delimitation of Bulgaria, under the 22nd Article of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. HOME.

No. 104.

Colonel Home, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 2.)
My Lord, *Royal Hotel, Pera, September 21, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 2, Confidential, dated the 9th September, 1878, containing your Lordship's instructions for my guidance in the duties entrusted to me as British Commissioner for the delimitation of Bulgaria.

These instructions shall receive my most careful attention.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. HOME.

No. 105.

Colonel Home, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 3.)
My Lord, *Royal Hotel, Pera, September 21, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 3, dated the 9th September, 1878, calling upon me to report on the disposal of the staff of the Bulgarian Boundary Commission during the winter.

This letter will form the subject of an early despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. HOME.

No. 106.

Colonel Home, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 5.)
My Lord, *Royal Hotel, Pera, September 21, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's letter No. 5, dated the 10th September, 1878, informing me that the undermentioned officer had been appointed to assist me in the duties devolving on me as Her Majesty's Commissioner for the delimitation of the frontiers of Bulgaria, viz.:—Captain F. C. H. Clarke, R.A., Captain J. C. Ardagh, R.E., C.B., Captain C. W. Murray, 61st Regiment, Lieutenant H. C. Chermside, R.E.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. HOME.

No. 107.

Colonel Home, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 6.)
My Lord, *Royal Hotel, Pera, September 21, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your Lordship's letter No. 6 dated the 10th September, 1878, informing me that, while employed as Her Majesty's Commissioner for the delimitation of the frontiers of Bulgaria, I shall receive a salary of 1,000*l.* a-year, in addition to regimental pay; that the officers employed under me will receive salaries of 450*l.* a-year, in addition to regimental pay, and further authorizing me to incur such expenses as may be requisite.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. HOME.

No. 108.

Colonel Home, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 8.)
My Lord, *Royal Hotel, Pera, September 21, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I, accompanied by Captain Ardagh, C.B., R.E., and Captain Clarke, R.A., arrived yesterday morning, the 20th, viâ Trieste.

I immediately reported my arrival to his Excellency Sir Henry Layard, G.C.B., Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, to whom I gave the despatches intrusted to my care.

Captain Murray, 61st Regiment, with four soldiers of the Royal Engineers, arrived this morning viâ Marseilles.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. HOME.

No. 109.

Colonel Home, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 9.)
My Lord, *Royal Hotel, Pera, September 21, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's letter No. 8, dated the 12th September, 1878, informing me that Sir Drummond-Wolff, K.C.M.G., is desirous of receiving certain information relative to those portions of Eastern Roumelia that I may from time to time visit.

I inclose for your Lordship's information a copy of a letter I have addressed to Sir Drummond-Wolff on this subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. HOME.

Inclosure in No. 109.

Colonel Home, R.E., to Sir H. Drummond-Wolff.

Sir, *Royal Hotel, Pera, September 21, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I have received instructions from the most Honourable the Marquis of Salisbury, to give you from time to time any information as to the population of the district of Roumelia that I may visit, the proportionate number of races and religions, and the measures taken by the Russian authority to levy taxes.

I hasten to assure you that I shall be glad to afford you every assistance in my power. With the view of seeking such information in the form that it may be most useful to you, will you kindly furnish me with a Memorandum giving in detail a statement of the heads under which you are desirous of obtaining such information.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. HOME.

No. 110.

Sir H. Drummond-Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 35.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 23, 1878.*

A GENTLEMAN, calling himself on his card "Konrad Bey, Sous-Chef d'Etat, Major-Général de l'armée territoriale de Rhodope," called on me yesterday, bringing me a letter from an acquaintance.

He told me he wanted to ask my advice in behalf of the insurgents. If there was to be a war between England and Russia, they were prepared to join England; but what he wanted principally was advice.

I recommended him to address himself to the Ambassador, which he said he would do. He wished me, however, to advise him as to whether the insurgents should attack the Russians or leave them alone.

I answered him that I thought any attack on the Russians would be most foolish, as it would lead to reprisals, and produce events every one was trying to avoid and prevent. He said he had been advised by a Turk of great position, whose name he told me, to send away all the "bouches inutiles," but to keep under arms without attacking, and he asked me whether this was good advice, or whether I thought the insurgents should lay down their arms and submit to the Russians.

I answered that I really could not express an opinion on this subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND-WOLFF.

No. 111.

Sir H. Drummond-Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 36.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 24, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour of inclosing to your Lordship several despatches from the Assistant Commissioner, and I have no doubt your Lordship will appreciate the tact, ability, and industry shown by Lord Donoughmore in these Reports.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND-WOLFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 111.

Lord Donoughmore to Sir H. Drummond-Wolff.

(Confidential.)
Dear Sir Henry Wolff, *Philippopolis, September 20, 1878.*

I ARRIVED here yesterday morning, and at once placed myself in communication with Mr. F. Calvert, the Acting British Vice-Consul.

Since my arrival I have been able to verify, and in some of its details to correct, the information I forwarded to you in my five previous letters.

With regard to the Bulgarian army, the first levy amounted to 9,000 men; the second, which is now completed, brings the strength up to 30,000. These figures are for Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia together, and represent the large proportion of close upon 3 per cent. of the Bulgarian population, which may be estimated at 1,300,000.

I understand that the conscription is not confined to the district of Tatar-Bazardjik, but is carried on generally throughout the province.

The system is approved of and fostered by the more educated Bulgarians, as tending to insure the object of the policy which they are advocating. As most of these gentlemen have obtained civil appointments under the Russian régime, the inconvenience of the conscription does not affect them personally; but I understand that the peasant class complain of this forced service as very irksome, and would far prefer to be left to themselves in peace and quietness.

Volunteering is the exception, and not the rule in the province.

I stated in a previous letter that the students of the Philippopolis College had presented themselves almost to a man for enrolment in the militia. This college was formed some months ago for the purpose of instructing Bulgarians in the Russian language, and the students did not volunteer for the militia, but as members of a military academy instituted here by the Russian authorities. Four of these students have since received commissions as officers in the militia.

As regards taxation, I learn that the sheep tax has been collected in lots in the Philippopolis district, notwithstanding the fact that it was taken in advance last year by the Turkish Government as a war contribution.

Again, with regard to the "dimes," the cultivators of the soil have had to undergo the same delays and inconvenience in waiting for the arrival of the assessor, which caused such evil effects and gave rise to so much peculation and corruption in former times.

Among the Bulgarian peasantry great complaints have been made as to the strictness and severity which have characterized the collection of taxes by the Russian authorities. Even those Bulgarian villages which were destroyed in the disturbances of 1876, and which the Turkish Government, up to the moment when it was hard pressed for funds to carry on the war, exempted from taxation, have been called upon to contribute their full quota. Petitions asking for exemption were presented by these villages to the Russian authorities, but without effect.

In a previous letter I informed you of the course pursued by the Russian authorities with reference to the standing crops of Turkish proprietors. My account is substantially correct, but I desire to add that, at the beginning of the harvest, the Turkish proprietors resident at Philippopolis were very few in number, and that in almost every case Turks have had the greatest difficulty in recovering their share, or any part of it, of their crops or property.

They are open at any moment to any accusation founded upon the *ipse dixit* of a Bulgarian, and there is at this moment a Turkish gentleman lying under sentence of death at the konak, who was put upon his trial here upon a charge brought upon the instigation of a person with whom some of his property had been deposited, and from whom he was attempting to recover it upon equitable terms. Full reports regarding the case of this gentleman, Hadji Shaban Agha by name, have been transmitted privately and officially to Her Majesty's Ambassador by Mr. Calvert.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) DONOUGHMORE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 111.

Lord Donoughmore to Sir H. Drummond-Wolff.

(Confidential.)
Dear Sir Henry Wolff, *Philippopolis, September 20, 1878.*

THIS morning, in company with Mr. Calvert, I paid a visit to that quarter of the town in which the Turkish refugees are permitted by the authorities to reside. The locality is a suburb on the other side of the Maritza, connected with the town itself by a bridge over that river. Across this bridge the refugees are forbidden to pass.

The number of refugees at present here cannot be accurately determined, as they have returned in such a constant succession—with a view to repatriation—from Constantinople and other places on the coast, that it is impossible to calculate with any certainty how many there are. There must be, however, several thousands.

The condition of these poor people may be described as one of nearly entire destitution. Up to ten days ago, I understand, rations were served out to them at the rate of 40 paras (2*d.* English) daily to each man, woman, and child, but this has been discontinued, and their whole support now depends upon those amongst them who are able to work upon the public works now in progress here. These public works are the conversion of a Turkish cemetery into a public garden, the filling up of a marsh outside the town, and the construction of water-courses to bring down drinkable water from the Rhodope hills. The rate of remuneration is from 2½ to 4 piastres (5*d.* to 8*d.* English) per diem and a loaf of bread, and even this is paid irregularly.

Owing to the state of the country, and the almost certainty of ill-usage of the worst kind which will await them on their return to their homes, the refugees are most unwilling to leave Philippopolis.

They are, however, ordered off in batches and compelled to go. This morning 800 of them, who belong to the Nahie of Kozoun-Tepé, situated to the north-west of the town, received orders to start to-night. Some of them, to whom wages were due for their labour upon public works, applied for their money, and were beaten in consequence by the Bulgarian zaptiehs. I conversed with several men this morning, one of whom had been subjected to this treatment; others confirmed it in other cases.

As these people are not permitted to come across the bridge over the Maritza into the town, it is quite impossible for them to represent their grievances and injuries to the Russian authorities, notwithstanding the assurance given by the Imperial Commissioner on his first arrival here that he would always be prepared to hear and redress grievances for any person who presented himself.

In the Turkish quarter of the town the houses in most cases have been completely gutted, and nothing left standing but the bare walls. In many cases the houses have been pulled to the ground. This work of destruction still continues at intervals, and

I understand that out of thirty mosques two small ones only are left open for public worship. Some of the remainder have been gutted and all pillaged, while the majority are used as stores, and for such like purposes.

I stated in a previous letter, on the authority of M. Organi, that Bulgarians had come to Philippopolis from the Balkans in considerable numbers. Others have also come from the Rhodope country and have appropriated such Turkish houses in the village as remained intact. In many cases where they have been called upon to give up these houses on the return of Turkish refugees they have destroyed them.

In this manner three large villages were destroyed in the Slimnia district some time ago, the refugees who were returning being kept waiting for ten days around the railway station at Yeni-Zaghra until the work of demolition was finished. Not 20 per cent. of the Turkish village habitations remain standing, and all traces of some villages have been entirely eradicated by the Bulgarians ploughing up the ground to search for hidden valuables.

I learn that at Carlowa, since the Treaty of Berlin, no less than 200 Turkish homesteads have been destroyed, it is said, by the direct order of Colonel Schipoloff, late Governor here, and now Russian Commissioner for the reorganization of the province.

There is established here a Bulgarian police similar to that at Adrianople. They are of very much the same character as that force, if not worse.

I hear of outrage, murder, and abduction, the victims being all Turks, in every part of the district. Mr. Calvert's note-book is full of such cases. It is perfectly clear to me that if the Russian authorities had chosen to exert their power and influence in the proper direction, these horrible occurrences would have been put a stop to long before this.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DONOUGHMORE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 111.

Lord Donoughmore to Sir H. Drummond-Wolff.

(Confidential.)
Dear Sir Henry Wolff, *Philippopolis, September* 21, 1878.

I HAVE been able to form during the last few days an estimate of the state of public feeling among the Bulgarians of this province.

In distributing the posts under the present Administration, the Russians have availed themselves of the services of the more educated Bulgarians and of theirs only. This party is headed by M. John Gueshoff, whose name will be familiar to you; and it is by them that feelings hostile to the Commission are entertained and propagated. These people are entirely under Russian influence, if that can be called influence which permits the practice of every sort of injustice and outrage, and they do all they can to spread and keep alive views and ideas favourable to Russian objects.

I have already pointed out to you, in my letter of the 20th instant, what the feeling of the Bulgarian peasantry is with regard to the conscription. As regards the future government of the country, all that the Bulgarian peasant desires is security for himself and his belongings, so that he may be able to live in peace and cultivate as much or as little of his land as seems good to him. It is equally a matter of indifference to him whether their security is obtained under Russian, Bulgarian, English, French, or any other rule, so long as it is obtained.

This is, I am convinced, the true state of feeling among the lower classes, if it were permitted to exist freely.

The Governors (Natchalnicks), however, of the different rural districts being all of the educated class of Bulgarians, and imbued with its views, the priests, the heads of rural police, and other agents of the so-called patriotic party in Philippopolis, are constantly keeping before the eyes of the peasantry a fear of a return to the old form of Turkish rule, and endeavour to persuade them that it is the object of the English Government to rehabilitate the Turkish authority in its fullest degree. Add to this that they are continually reminded that it is the presence of the Russian army alone which saves them from the vengeance of the Turkish population, and it cannot be wondered at that the actual opinions of the people are somewhat warped.

A newspaper published here in Bulgarian, called the "Maritza," which has been set on foot by Prince Dondoukoff, and is the avowed official organ of the Russian

authorities, also contributes to keep up agitation. I inclose a copy, for your information, of the last issue, and also the translation of a paragraph in it initialled by me, which will serve as a fair example of the manner in which it is sought to act upon the fears of the Bulgarians.

I venture to think and suggest to you that the difficulties of the Commission will be almost insurmountable unless some step is taken to remove the persons I have referred to above, who are nothing else than Russian agents, from the posts which they hold in the Administration, and entirely to reorganize the temporary Government of the province.

Some days ago a meeting was held at the residence of the Bulgarian Archbishop, where an Address, drawn up in French and Bulgarian by M. Gueshoff, was read. It was decided to present this Address, which advocates annexation to Bulgaria proper, to the Commission, at the railway station, on its arrival. Delegates were appointed to visit the different villages for the purpose of obtaining signatures, which will no doubt be procured in the same manner as they were in the case of former protests—either by threats, misrepresentation, or offers of money. The intention to present this document is supposed to be a great secret, but I am endeavouring to obtain a copy of the draft, which I will communicate to you if I succeed.

The Exarch of the Bulgarians is at present at Philippopolis, and I understand it to be his intention to fix his residence here permanently. I need not point out to you what a constant source of disturbance such an arrangement would be likely to prove in the future.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) DONOUGHMORE.

Inclosure 4 in No. 111.

Extract from the "Maritza."

(Translation.)

A TELEGRAM from Constantinople informs us that the Sublime Porte is organizing a scheme for the administration of Thrace.

We have no doubt that the first article of this scheme will be for the opening at Philippopolis of a great factory for the manufacture of rope halters.

Inclosure 5 in No. 111.

Lord Donoughmore to Sir H. Drummond-Wolff.

(Confidential.)
Dear Sir Henry Wolff, *Philippopolis, September* 22, 1878.

I HAVE just received information that all the Turkish refugees have been ordered to return to their villages to-day. I learn, on good authority, that this order has been given in view of the expected arrival of the Commission.

At the same time the Bulgarian population in the country has sent word to the Turks, threatening them with death if they show themselves at their own homesteads. They have represented this as best they can. Nevertheless, the Russian authorities compel them to leave the town, and in several cases men and women who expostulated were severely handled by the Bulgarian police.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DONOUGHMORE.

No. 112.

Sir H. Drummond-Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 37.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 24, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a Report from Lord Donoughmore, stating a conversation he had held with Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff. On receiving it I sent a telegram to your Lordship.

The violent language of this Prince is unfortunately sanctioned by that of Russian

functionaries less habitually incautious in speech. The points advanced are always the same, viz., the refusal of the Russian authorities to recognize the Commission and their intention to govern Eastern Roumelia in their own fashion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND-WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 112.

Lord Donoughmore to Sir H. Drummond-Wolff.

(Confidential.)
Dear Sir Henry Wolff, *Philippopolis, September* 21, 1878.

YESTERDAY afternoon I received a long visit from Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff, the Imperial Russian Commissioner.

He was afterwards joined by Colonel Alexander Schepeloff, late Governor of the town, and now Commissioner on the part of the Russian Imperial Government for the reorganization of Eastern Roumelia.

The following is an account of my interview with these gentlemen:—

The Prince, who arrived alone, asked if I was here officially. I said, Yes, under instructions from my colleague. He replied he had no doubt I was instructed, but that it was impossible that any of the Commissioners should have a real official position before the Commission had sat, and that he desired to speak to me familiarly as a "private gentleman."

He began by saying that, as far as he was able, he should put every obstacle in his power against the carrying out of the English programme, whatever it might be. There was no use disguising the fact; we were face to face as enemies, and he and his countrymen were, as it were, upon their trial. He said there would be disagreements, and very serious disagreements, at and from the very first sittings of the Commission. He ridiculed the Treaty of Berlin, the Rhodope Commission, the Eastern Roumelia Commission, and everything that had been done at or since the Congress, by the titles of "Offenbach-"isms, "comédies, bouffonnades, bouffonneries," and such-like expressions.

With regard to the meeting of the Commission at Philippopolis, the Prince said he thought it would be one of the first questions raised, and though he admitted that reasons might be advanced in favour of the Commission sitting here, he stated his views in favour of the locality being Constantinople.

If there had not been a Provisional Government already formed here he could understand that the necessity for the meeting of the Commission at Philippopolis might be defended; but he stated he was prepared to hand over his system in its entirety, as far as administrative and judicial matters were concerned. The manner in which Governors of sandjaks and cazas had been appointed; the instructions to those officers; the mode of enrolment of the police, and all the details of the force, with the instructions to its officers; the regulations as to the administration of justice; in fact the details of the entire judicial and administrative system were now in the press, and he would hand them to the Commission when it took over the regulation of the province.

At about this time Colonel Schepeloff arrived, and joined in the conversation.

Both gentlemen attempted to impress upon me that the existing Constitution being thus placed in the hands of the Commission, it could perfectly well discuss it at a distance, and could send any agents it pleased to glean information in the districts. The General added an expression of opinion as to the treatment such messengers would probably receive, which, if exact, would augur ill for their personal safety.

Prince Dondoukoff also alluded to the existence of the militia, treating it as having been enrolled according to the principles laid down in the Treaty of Berlin, but would only admit the existence of nine "legions" of 1,000 men each. He pointed out what would occur when, according to the Treaty, the officers to be nominated by the Sultan were appointed to this corps. He expressed his certain conviction that the Russian officers would break their swords, and that the Bulgarian soldiers would murder (his expression was "mettront une baïonnette dans le ventre") the Turkish or Greek officers sent to them. There would then be a corps without officers or petty officers, composed of "canaille," who would go to the hills, guns and all, and become nothing better than a gang of bandits.

He stated that the only means he could think of for preserving order in the corps for a time was during the occupation to incorporate it with the Russian army. This

step would at least secure order for nine months or a year; but, he added, "et puis après notre départ, le déluge."

He further drew my attention to the fact that after the retirement of the great bulk of the Russian army, and his own departure from the province on the appointment of a Turkish Governor-General, it would be perfectly vain to attempt to maintain order in the country. He himself would be at Sofia, or perhaps farther off. It would be impossible to communicate with him with sufficient rapidity, and, even if it were, he desired to know from whom the orders would come. He stated the movement of his troops to be a matter not to be regulated by Ambassadors or Commissioners, but by Imperial orders alone.

The Prince further stated his determination not to surrender any part, however small, of the control of the finances of the province, and remarked at the same time in a sarcastic tone that he did not understand how the Administration was to be carried on by the Commission, unless it had the control of the finances. He said the occupying army was to be supported at the expense of the occupied country. That the finances were requisite for this purpose, and that therefore he would not surrender them, but that there was a small surplus which he would hand over to the Commissioners to do what they liked with. You will perceive he thus threatened to retain not only funds for the support of his troops, but those necessary for the payment of salaries to civil officials. He did not, however, include in his estimate the expenses of the militia, which at the rate of 100 roubles per annum per man he placed at 9,000 (*sic*) roubles. He seemed now as before to have forgotten all about the second levy. He said the only way he saw out of the difficulty was for the Committee to adopt the Constitution he had instituted, and to revise it if necessary, leaving the arrangements for the Government of the province which now exist in *statu quo* until such revision is completed. These arrangements were, he stated, based upon the laws for the vilayets, with some emendations, such as the abolition of dime farming in this province, and were therefore conformable to the plan laid down by the Treaty of Berlin. He stated that he had not abolished the dime farming at Adrianople, because the locality was Turkish, and added that the differences between the English and his countrymen was that we were the friends of the "canaille Turque," while they were the supporters of the "canaille Bulgare."

Under any circumstances, he did not think matters could remain quiet for more than a few months, and that things must culminate in another Congress. From the way he said it, he meant another war.

On his departure, while assuring me of his personal regard, the Prince reiterated his determination to create obstacles, and again described the circumstances and the Treaty that had led to the appointment of the Commission as a farce.

During the conversation the Prince did not allude to the present condition of the Turks, or the ill-treatment they have undergone and are undergoing at present. He merely stated that he had been able to produce a certain amount of order out of chaos, and hinted that this was as much as could be expected under the circumstances.

His manner throughout was of a very genial and even jovial nature, and he seemed to derive considerable satisfaction from the invention of derisory epithets for the Congress of Berlin and other official acts which have followed it.

I did not consider it part of my duty to reply in any way to any of the Prince's arguments or assertions, or to express either assent or dissent with them.

Colonel Schepeloff remained for some moments after the General's departure. He seemed to consider it a matter of doubt whether the Porte would have the right to nominate a Commissioner at all, and appeared to wish to ignore her altogether. He was anxious for information as to the manner in which the business of the Commission was to be conducted, and whether the recording was to be by Protocol or Compte-Rendu, or how. I was unable to give him any information upon these subjects.

I have already informed you that Colonel Schepeloff is about to proceed to Constantinople to-morrow. He appeared to concur entirely in the Imperial Governor's views, and supported him in them, if not in the same jocular strain, at all events earnestly.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DONOUGHMORE.

No. 113.

Sir H. Drummond-Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October 4.*)

(No. 38.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September 24, 1878.*

I YESTERDAY attended a private meeting at Pera at the house of the Austrian Commissioner, to meet the French Commissioner, as we have determined on several matters to act and vote together.

In all matters where we are agreed I shall leave the discussion in the Commission very much in their hands, so as not to have the appearance of opposing the Russians more often than is necessary.

The following are the points on which we agreed to vote together in the first instance:—

Presidency.—That this, according to precedent, be offered to the Turkish Commissioner. A majority of the Commission is in favour of this course, which, however, I believe will be violently opposed by the Russians.

Bureau.—That the Secretary be a Frenchman, assisted, if the President likes, by a Turk.

Voting.—If it is found that the principle of a majority be not acceptable, that a vote be taken by majority for the purpose of closing a discussion, it being competent for the minority to bring on the question again later.

Records of Proceedings.—The Russians have started a doubt both here and, as your Lordship will see, at Philippopolis, as to whether these should be by Protocol or *Compte-rendu*. The latter is, as your Lordship is aware, a minute of decisions, while the Protocol gives the views of the different members. The absence of either during the boundary discussions by the Sub-Commissions at Berlin is giving rise to great difficulties to the Delimitation Commissioners. The Russians appear to wish to make the records as scanty as possible, probably to avoid being bound down by their words. They consequently desire a *Compte-rendu*; but my two colleagues and myself are of opinion that a Protocol is a matter of necessity.

Petitions.—We decided that it was best only to receive these in a collective form, so that none of the Commissioners should be considered the organ of one party or the other. We also decided that no petition should be received that prayed for anything inconsistent with the Treaty of Berlin. A deputation of three Bulgarians, headed by a M. Drinoff, a protégé of Russia, has arrived at Constantinople with an address to the Commission in favour of annexation to Bulgaria. This, of course, will be excluded.

Turkish Commissioners.—There being two Russian Commissioners we agreed to request our Ambassadors to recommend the appointment of a Second Commissioner for Turkey, a Christian. I believe this will be done.

The expenses of the Commission for lithography, Protocols, &c., we agreed should be borne by equal contributions. They will be very small.

On questions of policy we have come, I think, to a common understanding on the following points:—

Gendarmerie;

Militia;

The representation of minorities;

The recognition of all religions in the Provincial Legislature;

The limitation of the number of the Russian army of occupation to the number fixed by the Treaty;

The repatriation of the refugees;

The administration of the province, and especially of its finances.

I have received your Lordship's telegram on this subject of the 23rd instant, for which I am greatly obliged.

Your Lordship will see from Lord Donoughmore's despatches, forwarded by this opportunity, that the Commission will have no easy task at Philippopolis.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND-WOLFF.

No. 114.

Sir H. Drummond-Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October 4.*)

(No. 39.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September 24, 1878.*

LAST night at the reception at Her Majesty's Embassy my French and Italian colleagues told me that the German Commissioner had been urging them not to vote for the Presidency being given to the Turkish Commissioner.

He began speaking to me but we were interrupted.

Prince Tzotzelew announced to me his intention of calling to-day between two and three to introduce to me his colleague, Colonel Schepeloff, who had just arrived.

They did not come till much later, when I had gone out, but at the hour mentioned by the Prince, M. Braunschweig arrived evidently to meet him. He began by asking me if I would object to a non-official meeting to discuss preliminaries, I said certainly not, provided the Turkish Commissioners were present and that the meeting were called at some place named by the Turkish Government.

He asked me if it would not be as well to meet at some other place in the first instance.

I replied that I did not think so. The Russian Government had pressed for the meeting of the Commission at Constantinople, therefore why begin by an act which must be considered one of discourtesy to the Turks? He then opened out the question of the Presidency, and hoped I would not insist on offering it to the Turks. I replied that I considered this would be the only proper course; that Count Andrassy, in proposing Prince Bismarck for the Presidency of the Congress, had stated that this course was in conformity with precedent, and I did not see why we should depart from the rule laid down by such high authority.

He said that this was the rule for Congresses but not for Commissions; that the Commission for the Danubian Principalities in 1856 had adopted the rule of the *alternat*. I answered that the circumstances were not identical. The Principalities Commission was not limited in time. We were limited. The *alternat* had been proposed at Bucharest and not at Constantinople.

He then said that he himself objected to the Turk; first, because he thought he was slow, and, secondly, because he would make use of his authority to intrigue, and would not place in the *ordre du jour* anything he disliked. I rejoined that I did not consider the Presidency would confer any authority, and that as for the *ordre du jour* it would be settled by the Commission and not by the President. He then prayed me not to insist too much on forms, not on a point which the Russians would resist to the last.

I begged him to understand that no one would be more yielding on points of form than myself. I had come here fully imbued with the feeling that everything important can only be settled by compromise and mutual concessions, but, I added, are we to meet with opposition only on points of form? The majority of the Commission were in favour of Philippopolis as the place of meeting. The Russians had opposed the nomination of Turkish Commissioners. This had been conceded only after discussion. Now comes the question of the Presidency. What would be the next?

M. de Braunschweig said that he anticipated no difficulty, the Russians being animated by the most conciliatory feelings; this view, I was bound to tell him, I did not entirely adopt.

The language employed by Prince Dondoukoff to Lord Donoughmore was most deprecatory of the Treaty of Berlin, which was the basis of our functions. I think, however, I see a way to the solution of the Presidency difficulty, on which I will write later to your Lordship.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND-WOLFF.

No. 115.

Sir H. Drummond-Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(Separate and Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 26, 1878.*

I BEG to inclose two Memoranda given to me privately, on the subject of the population of Bulgaria and also on the formation of the Bulgarian militia. They come from a good source.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND-WOLFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 115.

Note communicated officiously to Sir H. Drummond-Wolff.

LES districts dont se compose aujourd'hui la Roumélie orientale comptaient, avant la guerre, environ 750,000 habitants qui se sont trouvés réduits, après la guerre, à moins de 500,000. Présentement le chiffre s'est de nouveau relevé; il doit atteindre tout près de 600,000 âmes.

Une fraction considérable des habitants Turcs et Bulgares des districts de l'ouest et du nord-ouest a péri pendant la guerre et la plupart des Musulmans survivants ont pris la fuite; ceux qui sont rentrés depuis lors dans leurs foyers ne forment qu'une très-faible minorité.

En revanche les Pomaks du Rhodope, ainsi que les Turcs du Barnabad-Balkan (Balkan Oriental) et de la Vallée de l'Ardá (à la frontière méridionale de la nouvelle province) n'ont pas émigré.

AVANT la Guerre, la population se décomposait ainsi qu'il suit :—

Turcs*	210,000 à 220,000
Pomaks	20,000 25,000
Tsiganes	5,000 10,000
Circassiens	6,000 10,000
Tsiganes	24,000 25,000
Israélites	8,000 9,000
Bulgares, Catholiques	8,000 9,000
„ Chismatiques	330,000 400,000
Greco-Bulgares	25,000 35,000
Grecs	25,000 35,000
Greco-Valaques	1,000 2,000
Greco-Albanais	1,000 2,000
Arméniens	1,000 2,000

APRÈS la Guerre, ces chiffres paraissent avoir subi les modifications ci-dessous indiquées :—

Turcs	80,000 à 90,000
Pomaks	20,000 24,000
Tsiganes	5,000 6,000
Circassiens (il n'en reste plus guère dans la Province)	.. ..
Tsiganes	15,000 16,000
Israélites	7,000 8,000
Bulgares, Catholiques	8,000 9,000
„ Chismatiques	370,000 380,000†
Greco-Bulgares	25,000 30,000
Grecs	24,000 30,000
Greco-Valaques	1,000 2,000
Greco-Albanais	1,000 2,000
Arméniens	1,000 2,000

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* Le nombre des Musulmans de la Roumélie Orientale, qui ont émigré, s'élève à 160,000 ou 170,000. A peine 24,000 de ces fugitifs sont rentrés dans leurs foyers.

† L'élément Bulgare paraît donc proportionnellement plus nombreux dans la Province de Roumélie que dans la Principauté de Bulgarie.

Inclosure 2 in No. 115.

[Information forwarded to Sir H. Drummond-Wolff respecting the Bulgarian Militia.

1ère Question. Quel est l'effectif de la milice Bulgare?—*R.* D'après les états d'effectif qui ont été dressés pour toute la nouvelle milice de la région des Balkans, le total des hommes incorporés jusqu'à présent dans les droujines dont se compose cette milice est de 12,000 à 15,000, dont environ 3,500 appartiennent à la Roumélie Orientale.

On avait l'intention de former un plus grand nombre de droujines, mais les levées qui ont été faites jusqu'à ce jour n'ont pas fourni un contingent suffisant.

2e Question. Par quels officiers cette milice est-elle commandée?—*R.* En ce moment, les cadres de la milice Bulgare sont formés surtout par des officiers et des sous-officiers Russes qui sont chargés de l'instruire, et cela durera tant que le nombre nécessaire d'officiers et de sous-officiers n'aura pas été fourni par les écoles militaires qu'on se propose de créer. A côté des officiers instructeurs Russes figurent dès maintenant quelques officiers et sous-officiers Bulgares provenant de la légion qui a été licenciée le 19 Janvier dernier.

3e Question. En quelle langue se font les commandements?—*R.* Les commandements se font en langue Bulgare.

4e Question. La milice Bulgare est-elle soumise aux règlements de l'armée Russe?—*R.* Les règlements Russes ont été appliqués dans la milice Bulgare pour tout ce qui concerne son organisation, son administration, sa tenue, son équipement et son armement.

5e Question. De quels éléments se compose la milice et comment l'a-t-on recrutée?—*R.* Jusqu'à ce jour on n'a fait entrer que des Bulgares dans la milice. Il a été toutefois statué que les habitants non Bulgares,* et même des hommes étrangers à la province pourraient y être admis sur la présentation de certificats favorables.

C'est le Commissaire Impérial Russe qui ordonne le recrutement, et qui répartit le contingent entre les différents Sandjaks. La répartition entre les communes est faite par les chefs des districts.

Les formalités de l'incorporation sont les mêmes que dans la plupart des autres armées.

Le service est obligatoire pour tous les habitants Bulgares âgés de 20 à 30 ans.

Il a été, bien entendu, déclaré que toutes ces dispositions avaient un caractère purement provisoire et qu'elles cesseraient d'avoir force de loi le jour où le pouvoir législatif qui doit être créé par la Commission Européenne aura promulgué une loi définitive.

No. 116.

Sir H. Drummond-Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 40.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 27, 1878.*

I HAVE had several conversations with two gentlemen, MM. Sarakioti and Psichari, who represent the Greek populations of Thrace.

The question will, no doubt, come on soon, and may, perhaps, to a certain extent, be influenced by the result of the impending election of a Patriarch. It is very difficult and complicated, and I cannot give a decided opinion on it till I have been enabled to hear other evidence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND-WOLFF.

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* Aucun Musulman n'a été incorporé dans la milice, mais on a appelé sous les drapeaux un certain nombre de Grecs, que l'on a considérés comme des Greco-Bulgares. Cette mesure a provoqué des doléances dans plusieurs villages Grecs, et l'émigration de quelques réfractaires.

Inclosure in No. 116.

MM. Psichari and Serakioti to Sir H. Drummond-Wolff.

Excellence, *Therapia, le 26 Septembre*, 1878.

SELON votre désir nous avons l'honneur de soumettre à votre Excellence l'exposé suivant concernant l'administration ecclésiastique de la Roumélie Orientale.

La Province de Thrace au sud des Balkans, et désigné par le Congrès de Berlin sous le nom de Roumélie Orientale, étant sous la suzeraineté de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, a droit à une administration ecclésiastique intérieure, indépendante du Patriarche Œcuménique, sous la présidence du Métropolitain Orthodoxe résidant à Philippopoli, tout en sauvegardant les droits canoniques du Patriarche Œcuménique conformément aux canons qui régissent l'Eglise Catholique Orthodoxe d'Orient.

L'administration ecclésiastique de la province est régie par des Evêques Suffragans du Métropolitain, élus par le Synode de la province, et consacrés par lui après leur élection. Ces Evêques sont à la tête des diocèses dont l'étendue doit correspondre à celle des districts administratifs (sandjaks).

D'après la délimitation de la Roumélie Orientale par le Congrès de Berlin il y a actuellement quatre Métropolitains dépendant du Patriarcat Œcuménique: ceux de Philippopoli, Sizéboli, Messembrie, et Anchialus; et deux Bulgares, institués par l'Exarchat après le schisme: ceux de Philippopoli et de Slivno (Islimié).

En ce qui concerne l'Archevêque Métropolitain de la Roumélie Orientale, résidant à Philippopoli, il y a deux modes d'élection: d'après l'un, et qui est le plus conforme aux canons de l'Eglise, le Synode des Evêques élit trois candidats, parmi lesquels le Patriarche Œcuménique choisit un qui reçoit son investiture; d'après l'autre le Synode des Evêques élit un seul candidat, qui est consacré par le Patriarche, de sorte que le Métropolitain de la nouvelle province, dont Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan est le Suzerain, ne reconnaît d'autre autorité ecclésiastique que celle des Chrétiens Orthodoxes, sujets de l'Empire Ottoman.

Tels sont les points principaux pour le réglement de l'administration ecclésiastique intérieure de la province semi-autonome de la Roumélie Orientale, dont l'institution, selon les canons de l'Eglise, doit se faire par le Patriarche Œcuménique.

De votre, &c.
(Signé) A. PSICHARI.
B. SARAKIOTI.

No. 117.

Sir H. Drummond-Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 41.) [B.B.*]

My Lord, *Therapia, September 27*, 1878.

WHEN the bag was almost made up I received several despatches from Lord Donoughmore, which there is no time to copy. As Lord Donoughmore returns, and will bring the drafts to-morrow, I send your Lordship the most important in original.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND-WOLFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 117.

Lord Donoughmore to Sir H. Drummond-Wolff.

(Confidential.)

Dear Sir Henry Wolff, *Philippopolis, September 22*, 1878.

THE Russian authorities, in forming a system of administration here, have followed closely, if not absolutely, the lines of the system which existed under Turkish rule. The territorial divisions of the nahié, caza, and sandjaks have been retained, and the elections to Councils are carried out in the same manner as formerly. The different districts are presided over by Kaïmakams, Mutessarifs, &c., as the case may be, and justice is administered by the Councils in the usual manner. In fact, the Russians have taken the laws for the vilayets as their basis. The difference is that

* Excepting Inclosures 4 and 5.

while formerly the Councils were mixed bodies composed of representatives of every religion and race, they are now almost exclusively Bulgarian. The Turks are entirely unrepresented, while the Greek members are very few.

The Governors of districts are all Bulgarian, even in the Nahié of Stanimaki, which is almost exclusively Greek. In the Council at this place four members out of six are Bulgarians.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DONOUGHMORE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 117.

Lord Donoughmore to Sir H. Drummond-Wolff.

(Confidential.)

Dear Sir Henry Wolff, *Philippopolis, September 24*, 1878.

WITH reference to your letter of the 21st instant, I have to state that the Greeks here, as far as I have been able to ascertain, are anxious to secure for themselves political and ethnical, no less than religious representation, in the future Government of Eastern Roumelia.

They are anxious to retain in their possession the churches, monasteries, and other ecclesiastical establishments which were left to them at the time of the separation between the Bulgarian and Greek churches in 1870. Most of the churches of Philippopolis remained in the hands of the Greeks after that event, the Greeks justifying their claim to them by the fact that they had been built and endowed with funds mainly contributed by the leading Orthodox inhabitants of the town, the majority of whom had remained faithful in their allegiance to the Œcumenical Patriarchate. The Bulgarians, however, have never ceased to challenge the right of the Greeks to retain possession of these churches, averring that the majority of the inhabitants of the district are Bulgarians by race, language, and adherence to the Exarchate. Latterly they have been endeavouring, through the Russian authorities, to get possession of some of the Greek religious foundations, and particularly of the Philippopolis hospital, which is under the charge of the Greek Archbishop.

An official correspondence on the subject has been passing between the Russian authorities and that prelate, but hitherto has led to no definite result.

The Russo-Bulgarian Administration has seen fit to consider as Bulgarians, and consequently to subject to conscription for the militia, the Christian inhabitants of two or three villages, who, though speaking no language but Bulgarian, have remained faithful to the Patriarchate, and consequently call themselves Greeks.

The Bulgarians refuse to admit the right of these people to that denomination. They also refuse to regard as Greeks a large proportion of the urban and rural adherents of the Patriarchate who speak Greek habitually, but whose parents or ancestors were natives of places now entirely devoted to the Exarchate. It is clear, however, that all who choose to consider themselves Greeks or Bulgarians, whatever their language and origin, have a right to follow their own inclinations on the subject. The question being with both parties a matter of conscience, it would be an interference with religious liberty to treat as Bulgarians a section of the population which regards all Bulgarians as schismatics. The Greeks, as the statistics which I hope shortly to send you will show, form even, by their admission, a very small proportion of the inhabitants, at least, in the Sandjak of Philippopolis. Their pretensions, therefore, to the ownership of this country are utterly extravagant, but they are, as a community, entitled to fair representation, in proportion to their number, in the civil and religious administration of the province, a representation which, in the case of this town, will probably be greater than that of the Bulgarians, who form the minority of the Christian inhabitants, while the Greeks not only form the majority, but also possess most of the wealth, and monopolize most of the local trade. I have already sent you a sketch of the existing Provisional Government. You will have learnt from it that the Greek element is almost totally unrepresented.

I will communicate with you on the individual views of the Bulgarian and Greek prelates in a separate letter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DONOUGHMORE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 117.

Lord Donoughmore to Sir H. Drummond-Wolff.

(Confidential.)

Dear Sir Henry Wolff, *Philippopolis, September 24*, 1878.

I HAVE just received a visit from the Greek Archbishop of Philippopolis, accompanied by an influential deputation of Greek gentlemen, merchants and others, of the locality. The result of our interview was to confirm what I have already communicated to you in my letter of this date. These gentlemen stated to me that their only desire was to be placed on the same footing with regard to representation, and civil and religious rights, as the Bulgarians and other nationalities of the locality, but they assured me that if the present *régime*, as conducted by the Russo-Bulgarian authorities, continued, it would be impossible for them to continue to live in the country.

I impressed upon them the fact that the only object of the English Commissioners was to secure equal rights and privileges for all creeds and races.

There is no question as to the desire of the Greeks here to remain under the domination of the Patriarch of Constantinople.

In the course of yesterday the Bulgarian Archbishop, and a number of Bulgarian gentlemen, also waited upon me; among them were Mr. John Gueshoff, MM. Gronoff, Stoiloff, and Iseroff, all prominent members of the ultra-Bulgarian party here. They expressed satisfaction at seeing an Englishman at Philippopolis, who had come to see things for himself, and stated that most exaggerated reports had been put about as to the conduct and proceedings of their compatriots. They assured me that these were entirely founded upon isolated incidents which were inevitable after previous events, and in a country in the state that this was at present.

I replied that no doubt horrible things had been reported as to all parties, but that, so far as I was concerned, I preferred to forget the past, and to look forward to some arrangement which would preclude the possibility of the recurrence of anything of the sort.

They all quite agreed with this view, and expressed their opinion that it would be not only the wisest but the most natural course to let bygones be bygones.

I then remarked that as that was the case I hoped for their support in working out some arrangement which would secure peace and tranquillity, and they replied that if the Commission intended to elaborate some really permanent settlement we might count upon them.

All these gentlemen are advocates of a reunion to Bulgaria proper. The visit was partly of a formal and official character, and no further conversation ensued.

The Bulgarian Archbishop is entirely in favour of keeping the Bulgarian Church under the Exarchate.

I have already informed you of the presence of the Exarch here, and his probable intention to remain.

I fear the idea of "isolated incidents" held by these gentlemen, and my own interpretation of the meaning of the term, do not coincide. Even during my short stay at Philippopolis a constant succession of acts of violence have come under my cognizance.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DONOUGHMORE.

Inclosure 4 in No. 117.

Lord Donoughmore to Sir H. Drummond-Wolff.

(Confidential.)

Dear Sir Henry Wolff, *Philippopolis, September 25*, 1878.

TWO Bulgarian notables of Akhir Tcheleby, who arrived here yesterday, have sent word to Mr. Calvert privately that the notorious Bulgarian brigand Petco, with 400 followers, was, three days ago, threatening the town of Akhir Tcheleby. He had almost surrounded the town, but was waiting for reinforcements of other Bulgarians to attack it. The Turks were armed, and in reply to a message from Petco, had said they would not surrender unless Russian officers were present to restrain the Bulgarians.

There are a few Bulgarians inhabiting Akhir Tcheleby, and they were nearly as terrified at Petco's approach as the Turks.

The two notables who have brought this news escaped from the town with their families by eluding Petco's outposts, who had demanded 100 Turkish pounds of each of them to let them pass.

The Bulgarians and Turks have always lived in amity at Akhir Tcheleby, and the two notables are anxious that steps should be taken to save their Mussulman neighbours; but they are afraid to make any direct representations to the Russian authorities here, fearing the displeasure of the Bulgarian Archbishop Panaretos, who, they say, is the instigator of Petco's proceedings.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DONOUGHMORE.

Inclosure 5 in No. 117.

Lord Donoughmore to Sir H. Drummond-Wolff.

(Confidential.)

Dear Sir Henry Wolff, *Philippopolis, September 25*, 1878.

I HAVE to inform you that the Russian authorities in this place are daily imprisoning and fining subjects of other Powers, and acting in entire disregard of the Capitulations.

Yesterday an Italian subject was imprisoned by them, and at once addressed a formal complaint to his Consul. The man was ill-treated, and put in irons by the Bulgarian head of police when the latter heard that he had taken this course.

I understand the Consular Body are about to address a protest on this matter to the Imperial Governor. Full details will be reported to Her Majesty's Ambassador by Mr. Calvert.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DONOUGHMORE.

No. 118.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 168. Political.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, September 23*, 1878.

A FEW days ago Azarian Effendi, one of the Ottoman Delegates here, informed me confidentially that he had ascertained from a reliable Russian source that orders had been issued from Livadia according to which two corps d'armée were to recross the Balkan from Bulgaria, and two others were to be in readiness at Kischeneff and Odessa to replace these in Northern Bulgaria.

As regards those that were said to be ordered into Eastern Roumelia, it occurred to me that it was quite possible that Bourgas might be considered a better port for their re-embarkation than Varna, which is said to be quite full of Turkish stores which are being shipped there, but the other portion of this report appears to me strange.

I have ascertained since that a contract has been entered at Bucharest for flour sufficient to provide 135,000 daily rations of bread for the Russian army occupying Bulgaria.

This afternoon a friend of mine, who mixes much with high Russian officials, assured me that he had it on the best possible authority that two corps d'armée were to re-enter Eastern Roumelia, and that two others were to be kept in readiness to replace these in Bulgaria; that, moreover, the Commissariat was to follow, and that all sales of stores were to be interrupted.

However extraordinary this information appeared to me I considered it my duty to report a *précis* of it to your Lordship by telegraph.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

P.S.—I conveyed the above information to Sir Austen Layard by the last messenger (Ball) passing this way to Constantinople.

W. A. W.

No. 119.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 170. Political.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, September 25, 1878.*

INFORMATION has been received here, according to which the Courts of Vienna and Rome have made known their readiness to adopt the designation of "Royal Highness" in addressing the Sovereign of this country in future.

A similar act of courtesy is expected here from the other Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 120.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 173. Political.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, September 27, 1878.*

THIS Court has been extremely gratified by the attentions displayed by the Courts of Vienna and Rome on the occasion of Prince Charles assuming the designation of Royal Highness.

Both these Courts have instructed their respective Agents here to communicate to His Royal Highness their full concurrence in this appellation, and these gentlemen have had audiences for that purpose.

Not having received any orders to make a similar communication to the Prince I have neither applied for an audience, nor seen him since his return to Bucharest, as I should feel some embarrassment in approaching His Highness, though I presume that his new designation is accepted by Her Majesty's Government in the same way as it has been by the other Powers.

With reference to my telegram of the 23rd instant I beg leave to explain that though the information it contained may not turn out entirely correct, it was derived from what I knew to be a high Russian source, and, at any rate, it bears evidence of the prevailing belief in these quarters that the occupation both of Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia is likely to be prolonged beyond the time assigned for it by Treaty, and that the Russian military authorities are taking steps to employ a much larger force for that purpose than they are legally entitled to do.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 121.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 175. Political.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, September 28, 1878.*

THE French Acting Agent here has likewise applied for an audience of Prince Charles to congratulate him on assuming the style of a Royal Highness.

Reports are constantly reaching this place of an agitation got up amongst the Bulgarians for the purpose of protesting against the carrying out of the decisions of the Berlin Congress, whether as regards the formation of the province of Eastern Roumelia, or the cession of the Dobroudja to Roumania.

I had the honour of reporting symptoms of this agitation to your Lordship on the 2nd instant, and I have to add now that rumours of its extension to a district very thinly inhabited by Bulgarians, and which Russia herself professed her willingness to cede to Roumania even at San Stefano, have occasioned some alarm here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 122.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 177. Political.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, September 28, 1878.*

WITHIN the last few weeks a section of public men here have commenced an agitation against the acceptance of the Dobrudcha by Roumania; at one time the present Ministers were also opposed to this annexation, but they have wisely modified their views since.

I have in a previous despatch stated to your Lordship the views entertained here on the subject; but the effects of recent resistance to the Austrian occupation in Bosnia, and the alarming reports spread here as to the extent Bulgarian agitation is taking under the patronage of Russian officials, have naturally produced misgivings, and have strengthened the opposition to the acceptance of this territory.

I am inclined to think that the Government and the Prince will carry their point and will prevail upon the Chambers to sanction this acquisition; but it cannot be denied that the present Ministers are so violently attacked on all sides that it is not impossible that they may be compelled to dissolve the Chambers and submit all the important questions to the country, which would no doubt increase very considerably the existing agitation, and protract still longer the prevailing state of uncertainty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 123.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.

(No. 178. Secret.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, September 30, 1878.*

THE districts of Bessarabia which are to become Russian have not yet passed into the possession of that Empire, and the subject is naturally a very sore one with the public here. Like most young people, the Roumanians are extremely sanguine of the part they have to play yet in the history of Eastern reconstruction, and this feeling makes them particularly sensitive on the subject of any temporary discomforture; but however bitter and general the anti-Russian feeling happens to be at the present moment, the statesmen of Europe would be committing a great error if they were simply to assume that its existence is a sufficient guarantee of the side Roumania is likely to take in any conflict which, sooner or later, is sure to break out in the east of Europe.

The Porte has suffered much more at the hands of the Czar than Roumania, and still it is very probable that even at Stamboul and at the Court of the Sultan there are still influential, though possibly not disinterested, parties who are working for a Muscovite alliance and find supporters amongst those who dread the progress of Western ideas and influence.

At Bucharest there are a few public men thoroughly averse to Russia, and who, under favourable circumstances, might exercise a most beneficent influence on the destinies of their country.

A few others there are, unfortunately, who through vanity, party hatred, or under the influence of still less avowable motives, are ever ready to do Russian work and, under all kinds of pretexts, to guide the destinies of their country in the direction most agreeable at St. Petersburgh.

That the country would applaud an anti-Russian course of policy, if properly led, is more than probable; but of the two political parties—the Boyards or Conservatives, and the Liberals, who are now in power, and are called "Rouges" by their adversaries—I cannot say that the leaders of either are anti-Russian on principle.

The Boyards are entirely absorbed by the idea of getting back to power, and modifying the Constitution in such a sense as to have a more permanent hold of office. Many of them are personally inclined to Russia, and they would find more sympathy there than with any other Power in realizing their anti-Constitutional plans.

The Ministers now in office, who have been the allies of Russia in the late events, being democratic in their opinions, might be supposed, especially after their recent

painful experience, to be more cautious in their dealings with that despotic and unscrupulous Power.

Much will depend on the general policy adopted by Austria and the Western Powers with regard to this country, and the conciliatory attitude of the Court of Vienna, if persevered in, may do much to encourage this Government in being more cautious as regards Russian proposals.

A few weeks ago it was asserted at Bucharest that the Russian Minister was urging upon this Government the acceptance by Roumania of a new Secret Convention, by which Silistria was to be included in the Dobrudscha, and other advantages were to be secured as a compensation for allowing Russia to have a military road through the Dobrudscha into Bulgaria.

There is no evidence to show that such a proposal has been made, but since that rumour ceased all reports confirm two facts—

1. That the Imperial Government have stated that they cannot allow the inclusion of Silistria in the Dobrudscha.

2. That the Russians have got up an agitation in the Dobrudscha with a view to create obstructions to its peaceful occupation by Roumania.

Russian partizans here, and the Opposition, are making the most of this new and unexpected danger.

From what I hear from reliable sources of the proceedings of Russian Agents, I am strongly inclined to believe in the existence of the Russian Project of Convention above alluded to, in the hesitation of some of the actual Ministers to accept it, and in the subsequent creation of a variety of new perils by which Prince Charles and his Ministers may be coerced into a proper mood for returning to the traditional subserviency to Russia, the interruption of which Baron Stuart lamented so much in his official note addressed to this Government on the 23rd ultimo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 124.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 683.)
My Lord, *Vienna, September 28, 1878.*

ACCORDING to the "Neue Freie Presse," the loss of the Imperial army in Bosnia and the Herzegovina, as shown by the official lists regularly issued, amounts up to the present date to 3,076 wounded, 652 killed, and 354 missing, who should probably be added to the killed, bringing them to 1,000.

The loss in the most recent encounters is not included in these returns.

The same paper states that there is no estimate of the sick, who, however, must be at least three or four times as numerous as the killed and wounded, as they have latterly been passing through Agram at the rate of more than 2,000 a week.

With reference to this statement, it should be borne in mind that the newspaper which makes it is very hostile to the Government in the matter of the occupation, and that Major Gonne represents the health of the corps with which he is present as extremely good.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 125.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 685.)
My Lord, *Vienna, September 28, 1878.*

AS instructed by your Lordship's despatch No. 486 of the 13th instant, I have inquired whether, in the opinion of Count Andrassy, under the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin, the Porte has engaged to take the advice of the Commission for the organization of East Roumelia on the subject of the modifications to be introduced into the Règlement Organique of Crete. His Excellency considers that, according to the strict interpretation of the Article in question, the East Roumelian Commission would not be called upon to examine the modifications of the Cretan Règlement, but only the

projects to be prepared by the Commissions appointed by the Porte for drawing up forms of administration for the other provinces; but he is of opinion that various considerations would make it desirable for the amended Cretan Règlement to be also submitted to it. He thinks especially that it would be taken by the Greeks as a security that the just claims of the Cretan Christians would receive proper consideration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 126.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 687. Secret.)
My Lord, *Vienna, September 30, 1878.*

THE confidential prints brought by the present messenger contain a secret telegram of Sir A. Layard's, of the 21st instant, reporting that the Sultan was about to propose to his Ministers the dispatch of a Circular to the Turkish Representatives, stating that Austria having invaded Bosnia without an agreement with Turkey, her troops have committed great cruelties on the Mussulman population, and that the Porte protests against these unjustifiable proceedings.

Although Her Majesty's Ambassador had urged the Grand Vizier to abstain from taking a step which would cause great irritation and resentment here, I may observe that, if it should unfortunately be resorted to, it might have the effect of entirely changing the policy of Count Andrassy, who, in spite of appearances and what may be thought of him at Constantinople, is, I am satisfied, still desirous of pursuing towards Turkey as friendly a course as is possible for him under the difficulties caused by an influential Slav party, who would prefer coming to an understanding with Russia that would lead to the partition of the Turkish Empire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 127.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 689.)
My Lord, *Vienna, September 30, 1878.*

I PERCEIVE in a semi-official article published in the Bucharest papers that it is stated that "le Gouvernement Anglais a donné avis, par l'organe de son Représentant à Vienne, qu'il reconnaissait volontiers et avec plaisir l'acte accompli" of the assumption by Prince Charles of the title of Royal Highness.

About ten days ago, when M. Balachano, the Roumanian Agent, mentioned to me that the Prince was assuming that title, I said that I had heard nothing from your Lordship on the subject, but that I did not anticipate any hesitation on the part of Her Majesty's Government in recognizing it if other Governments were disposed to do so, and this was all that passed between us in a casual conversation which did not last altogether more than a minute.

I understand that Count Andrassy, when asked to recognize the title, answered that he could have no hesitation in doing so for a Prince, whose father was himself Royal Highness, or for any member of the family who should succeed him, which was perhaps a piece of courtesy directed as much to Berlin as to Bucharest.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 128.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 693.)

My Lord, *Vienna, October* 1, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the inclosed despatch which has been addressed to me by Major Gonne, Military Attaché to this Embassy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 128.

Major Gonne to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Doboj, September* 23, 1878.

I LAST had the honour of reporting the arrival of the 3rd Corps at Han-Perkovacs, within seven miles of Dol-Tuzla. I also mentioned having in person ascertained that insurgents were intrenched in a position dominating the Tuzla road. It struck me as suspicious, and I mentioned my suspicions to Count Szapary, that the insurgents did not fire on our reconnoitring party. The real fact was, that the corps stood opposite to the same rear-guard which had covered the retreat of the main body from opposite the Austrian position at Doboj. I was unable to find any one to share my opinion that Tuzla had been evacuated. I have also pointed out that Szapary's orders prevented independent action. He was to act with the 4th Corps,* and, though the whereabouts of this corps had been reported by telegram from Vienna, a staff officer, with escort, found it impossible to open direct communication. By telegram Szapary knew that the 4th Corps, under Bienerth, was delayed seven hours on the 20th September, by the want of a bridge near Vodnica. There was every reason to calculate on combined action on the morning of the 22nd instant.

Field-Marshal Szapary ordered a bridge to be constructed during the night of the 21st over the Kalaiepa River, and the brigade of General Waldstätter was to attack the insurgent fortified position at daybreak. During the night it rained heavily, and a fog prevented the intended movement. At 9 A.M. the outpost reported that the enemy had left its trenches, and, almost at the same moment, a deputation arrived at the head-quarter bivouac, from Tuzla, reporting that the insurgent force had left the town and position. I telegraphed the information that 6,000 Albanians, with 10 guns of sorts, had fallen back on Svornik, intending further retreat, and that the remainder of the enemy, say from 2,000 to 3,000, had thrown down their arms and dispersed, with the intention of regaining their homes. The brigade Bruckner was immediately ordered to occupy Tuzla, where is a castle and two Turkish barracks, and the corps had orders to cook and march at 1 P.M. Subsequent orders from Vienna took the corps to Gor-Tuzla.

On the same date, viz., the 22nd, in the morning Bienerth's progress was obstructed by a few insurgents, who inflicted a loss of thirty-two wounded. This was the party which prevented communication between the two corps, and which probably was left in ignorance of the retreat of the main body. Bienerth, however, reached Dol-Tuzla, and his force was found to consist of one division; the other had marched, after the battle of Brecka, where its losses were 300 wounded, to Bijilina. Bienerth received orders to follow the Albanians to Svornik. Szapary's duty is to send parties here and there to disarm villages.

Under the circumstances I thought it advisable to fall back on Brod, viâ Doboj. I asked leave to join Bienerth, but the Austrian Minister of War had only granted me leave to join the 3rd or 4th Corps.

To remain with Szapary seemed useless; I can obtain much more information at Brod; in fact, I think it my duty to point out to your Excellency that my further residence in Bosnia can hardly prove useful to the public service. There is actually no enemy in the field!

I shall remain at Doboj to watch the effect of the return of the insurgents to their homes. Many had already reached Gracanica as I passed the town, and the Colonel commanding a battalion there told me that already there were disturbances, as the

* 4th Corps crossed the Save at Samac 14th, and sent a division to Brcka and thence to Bielina; the other division marched on Tuzla.

Christians had sacked the forsaken Moslem houses. I also hear of the formation of insurgent bands in the mountains, and the "Szapary lines," now held by one regiment, covering Doboj, are supposed to require reinforcement. A brigade of the 32nd Division of the 5th Corps will undertake this duty.

I left the head-quarters of the 3rd Corps with some regret, as there was always something to learn from the soldier-like style in which Count Szapary and his staff handled the machinery of command.

The last event falling under my notice before leaving the camp is worthy of record, proving how perfectly humane the sentiments of the commanding officer are in this exceptional and difficult campaign. I witnessed the same purely by chance. When the corps was about to march into Tuzla, an officer rode up to the Field-Marshal Commanding, and said:—

"Sir, I have taken a Turk with arms prisoner in the insurgent entrenchments. Shall I have him shot?"

Szapary answered—

"I will never have a prisoner shot. You know the standing orders. An armed inhabitant is to be shot. You have taken him prisoner; now it is too late. Disarm him and let him go."

During Szapary's first advance and retreat to Doboj the prisoners were, without exception, disarmed and let go. It is asserted that these again took up arms and served against the Austrians, and when I mention one or two facts which can be vouched for, the assertion may be believed; also these anecdotes serve to throw some light on the nature of the opposition shown to the Austrian occupation. I was wrong in supposing that the hostile movement was purely one of socialists and fanatics, that it embraced only the worthless portion of the inhabitants. It, in truth, includes the whole energy of the male population, the Christians who were brave enough to take up arms against the Porte and the Slavs who changed their religion to become owners of land, or rather their descendants. The Slav Mahommedan seems a more zealous servant of the Prophet than the pure Turk. The presence of a hostile Austrian garrison has never prevented the Muezzin from mounting the tin-capped minaret to call the faithful to prayer. And the outposts of insurgents within rifle shot of ten times their numbers, have never failed to lift up their voices to Allah for help at sunrise and sunset. I should describe the insurgents as a God-fearing bloodthirsty set of barbarians. The habit of mutilating the dead and decapitating the wounded is not Turkish but Slav. It is to me doubtful whether any severe measures short of eliminating the Moslems from Bosnia and Herzegovina will ever secure peace for the Austrian invaders.

With the Christians the position is otherwise. Those who have taken up arms are Socialists, and for the most part brigands. The rest have a future, perhaps, but as hewers of wood and drawers of water, have been nurtured to consider themselves an inferior race. They have cunning, but they want courage; their instincts are cruel and savage, but as yet they have had little opportunity of evincing any gift of nature save that of self-preservation; they cringe in turn to Moslem and Austrian till they consider the power of one or other permanently established. The discipline of the Austrian army, and the care with which private right has been protected, has doubtless ere this made the mass declare openly for the Austrian; and where an Austrian armed force is at hand, the mean-spirited Christian has seized the goods of his absent Moslem neighbour, or maybe has burnt his house down, but these same Christians are by no means brave enough to join a national police force for the restoration of order. It is said that out of 1,000,000 inhabitants, about 300,000 are Moslems; from these a police force to keep the majority in order might with ease be formed if the new Government could insure their goodwill and trust them with arms. The question is, how much improvement is the emancipated Christian susceptible of? The Austrians must establish a gendarmerie, and they will require members with a local knowledge.

The march of three corps against, say, 12,000 insurgents, of which about 9,000 alone acted together in the form of an army, has been an obvious absurdity from the first; and when the Vienna War Council hit on the bright idea of a simultaneous attack from three sides on these said 9,000, any one with the least experience of irregular warfare could hardly abstain from a smile. If the roads are occupied, these 9,000 can either disperse through wood and mountain, to reunite at any given spot, or, being perfectly well informed of their enemy's movement, can requisition horses and pass over the very worst roads, even with artillery.

The Austrians, on the other hand, make use only of the very best lines of

communication. Those who imagine that the insurgents have faced the Austrians in the open make a great mistake. Their system of fighting is to fire random shots from cover; their stock of ammunition is inexhaustible, but fortunately for the invader the fire is without aim. Courage they certainly do show, but it is instinctive courage, without any semblance of skill. They have never destroyed bridges, and when in possession of the line of telegraph wire have not had the sense to cut it; when they chance to outnumber their adversary, as in Szapary's advance and retreat, they are formidable, for they have sufficient individual courage to disperse and open fire on fighting column, train, and escort indiscriminately, but ever from a cautious distance.

I have already mentioned that in the battle of the 5th September at Doboj Szapary's troops charged into the bush five times with the bayonet. This change in tactics made a profound impression on the savages, and if the Austrians continue it nothing more will be heard of battles. I may mention that on no occasion did the Bosniacs cross blades; they don't like close contact, but do not mind the whistle of bullet or shell.

I have omitted, however, to mention the instances I can vouch for in which Moslems have shown a fanatical desperation, and careless contempt for life.

A Moslem was known to sell fruit to a party of soldiers by the wayside, and, after these had passed 200 or more paces, he produced a firearm, shot at the soldiers, and made good his escape.

When Bienerth crossed the Save at Samac, there was little or no resistance. Still a few individuals fired at the marching column from an Indian-corn crop.

Count Szapary rides a Turkish grey horse, taken under the following circumstances:—

Marching in the centre of his column, within 100 paces, a Turk was observed to ride out from behind a stack towards the road full of soldiers; he discharged his rifle at the column when close to it, and a hussar of the head-quarter guard rode at him and cut him down with a sabre. The Turk (Bosniac) died, and the General borrowed his charger.

If, added to this, the reports are true concerning conspiracies discovered in Serajevo to destroy the unbelievers, the task undertaken by Austria seems, indeed, a difficult one to complete.

What will be said and done if Doboj is again in a state of siege behind the 3rd and 4th Austrian Army Corps?

A suspicion that this may prove the case makes me delay my movement to Brod; but I shall be obliged by your Excellency's instructions, addressed to the head-quarters of Field Marshal L. Ramberg at that town. And I venture to suggest that there remains no work for me to perform as Military Attaché with the Austrian army in Bosnia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. GONNE, *Major, 17th Lancers,*
Military Attaché.

Inclosure 2 in No. 128.

Major Gonne to Sir H. Elliot.

Head-Quarters, 3rd Corps, Han Pirkovar, 5 miles west of Dol-Tuzla,
September 21, 1878.

Sir,

THIS corps has reached a point from which its outposts might exchange cannon-shots with the insurgents, described as occupying "all the salient points" of the hill plateau of Dol-Tuzla. No guns have been sent from the "gros" of the corps, and the undisguised object of the Austrian army leaders is to fight a decisive battle, and, if possible, prevent the further progress of the armed party of disorder. To bring about complete success, not only is the 4th Army Corps co-operating from Samac, but also a brigade has marched from Serajevo north-east to cut the line of retreat on Novi-Bazar.

If the theatre of war were an ordinary one, the fate of the insurgent armed rabble would be beyond the region of doubt; but it is not so. Except on the summit of the hills forming the watershed of the Spreca River, there is a thick brushwood undergrowth, wherever crops of Indian-corn do not hide the soil. Villages are wooden huts surrounded by fenced gardens covering acres of ground; so the country may be said to

offer every opportunity for the escape of a dispersed multitude, who, with few exceptions, wear no uniform distinguishing them from the peasant inhabitants. The desire of the War Council in Vienna is to surprise the enemy, and the leaders of the 3rd and 4th Corps are warned against giving a warning of the impending blow by single action; hence it happens that the 3rd Corps have divided the distance between Grocanica and Han Pirkovar into two marches, and hence also it happens that full opportunity will be given the insurgents to think better of their intended defence of Dol-Tuzla (imagining always that such an intent has up to this existed).

The last two days' march have been uneventful. The road which was axle deep when Szapary with his brigade with difficulty succeeded in saving guns and wheeled carriages from the flank attacks of an almost invisible foe, now afforded very good going, but it required evidently no more than a few hours rain to produce a quagmire. At times the road passed the spurs of hills and presented severe gradients, but the 9-centim. guns, of which there are two batteries, continued their way without a check, and with fine though damp nights, the columns marched along right merrily, sickness being at a minimum, whilst hope of a speedy and satisfactory end to the campaign seemed to inspire all ranks with that energy which surmounts all difficulty. The country presented such a pic-nic appearance that a burning house here and there was necessary to remind all of the stern reality of war. On this occasion the houses were fired by the Austrians, and were tenements marked for destruction during Szapary's disastrous advance and retreat. Many of the officers of the corps are now passing over the same ground for the third time in a six weeks' war.

The order of battle has continued the same: a brigade on the left bank of the Spreca, the main body of the corps on the road (right bank), and a column with mountain-guns on the higher hills, also on the right bank, but forming the extreme left of the triple advance. Small parties are detached from these to collect arms and obtain intelligence from the Christians, who are ever ready to tell tales, the truth of which remains to be proved. According to the Christians the insurgents have forced all the able-bodied males in the district to work at the defences of Dol-Tuzla, where there will assuredly be a desperate battle, and their report is as yet credited, because the Intelligence Department of the Staff reports lines of freshly-turned soil amongst the brushwood; and, further, that these lines were first only occupied by vedettes, who gave the alarm this morning, and brought garrison out of the town.

Yesterday, at mid-day, a Staff Officer tried to communicate with the advanced guard of the 4th Corps marching from the north;* and at this moment Field-Marshal Szapary has sent a proposal of joint action, or rather a plan. However, Field-Marshal Bienerth is independent, and need accept no orders except from Vienna or Serajevo. Possibly two sources of orders is preferable to three or more; but Field-Marshal Szapary is the senior officer. The last-named, whose talent and tact constantly excite my admiration, told me that the limits to be covered by each corps are named from Vienna. So I should say that it is a fair inference that the bulk of the enemy will make good its escape, if fanaticism does dictate the duty of fighting a battle against enormous odds.

I as yet have seen no reason to suppose that there is more than a rear-guard in Dol-Tuzla, though I hear it is otherwise. Insurgents in this country avoid roads on making good their retreat.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. GONNE, *Major, 17th Lancers,*
Military Attaché.

* The Staff Officer was unable to pass.

Inclosure 3 in No. 128.

Major Gonne to Sir H. Elliot.

Brod, September 28, 1878.

Sir,

ON the 20th I telegraphed from Doboj the expected news that Svornik would offer no resistance to the Austrian troops. The "Metropolitan" from that town having visited the head-quarters of the 4th Corps to report that the 6,000 Albanians, under Moukti Effendi, with guns, had moved due south, with a view of making good their retreat to Novi-Bazar. On a former occasion I reported that a brigade of

Austrians had moved from Serajevo to co-operate with the 3rd and 4th Corps.* This brigade occupied Kladanji and Vladenica, so, to escape battle, the Albanians, who were the main strength of insurgents opposed to Szapary, will have to make away with their guns, and avoid roads. Till the 25th instant the head-quarters of Field-Marshal Lieutenant Bienerth and Szapary were in Dol and Gor-Tuzla. The former has orders to "sweep" the valley of the Drina, whilst Szapary has sent the Brigade Valdstätter, by a bridle path, direct from Tuzla to Serajevo. One brigade remains on the Spreca, whilst the 3rd Brigade and head-quarters march viâ Gralanica to the valley of the Bosna; eventually the corps will concentrate on Serajevo.

With no opponents in the field, the duty of the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Corps† will be to disarm villages and make roads. It is thought that this work ought to be complete before the end of October. Barracks are being constructed outside the town for a large force at Serajevo, and for battalions at strategical points; and it is in contemplation to send to their homes the reservists of the reserve regiments at an early date.‡

The work of disarmament is by no means simple. At first an order was given that "harems" should be considered sacred; but instances having come to light where men and arms were concealed in the women's quarters, the rule will be relaxed; again, arms are often buried in tombs, but there is usually a Christian ready to point out where!

Under my own notice I may mention that the town of Gracanica yielded, at the first visit, 1,000,000 cartridges; at the second, 400,000. I saw the engineers destroy this last number; they were for the most part in Snider cases; many of the cases were marked petroleum, and evidently came from America. A second instance is the town of Tesnja, west of Maglay. A brigadier was displaced for not making a clean sweep, and Waldstätter was sent there with important results. When I left Doboj a third expedition was contemplated to the same place.

On the 26th, Major-General Mengazzi (of 32nd Division), commanding at Doboj, told me that a shot had been fired at his outposts on the left bank of the Bosna, close to the high road. The officer in charge traced the shot to a house in a field of Indian-corn. The door was barred, and when the troops broke in only an old woman and two children could be found. To the honour of the Austrians be it recorded that the house was left standing. This chance shot is a further instance of fanaticism; but I am happy to say that persons I have conversed with who ought to know are of opinion that there are Moslems, and Moslems in Bosnia, and that though there is little hope of pacifying the ultra-religious party, the bulk of Mussulmans are reasonable. They have been so thoroughly in the habit of lording over the mean-spirited Christian, the Beys have been so thoroughly lords over their property and their Christian dependents, one may almost say slaves, that it goes hard with a Mussulman to give up the arms in which he trusted and walk on terms of equality with the "Christian dog" he has been in the habit of treating as a domestic animal, not of necessity unkindly, but ever as a dog.

From an eye-witness I have heard a detailed account of the trial and execution of the most redoubted of Austria's foes in Serajevo. My informant describes Hadji Loya as insignificant beside Hadji Pamarkovic. The former had personal and interested objects, the latter was a man of means and fought for the Prophet.

After the capture of Serajevo Jamarkovic was given up, or persuaded to give himself up to the troops, and was tried by drum-head court-martial in a hollow square of infantry. The auditor, or public prosecutor, cross-examined him.

Jamarkovic was a strikingly noble-looking man, and of great muscular power. During the trial his hands were unbound, and he seated himself cross-legged.

In answer to questions, he said his age was 46, and that his property was 40,000 ducats; and when asked whether he was a Mahommedan, his answer was, "God be thanked I am!" He then acknowledged to having seized Fazli Pasha by the throat at a meeting to decide whether Serajevo should oppose the Austrians, because the latter was against fighting. At this moment he got very excited, called Fazli names, and said, "Yes, had it not been for me, the town would have given in." On being asked why he took up arms, his answer was, "In order to send as many dogs of Christians to hell as possible." He then acknowledged to having commanded at Zepci and other fights, but denied having commanded at Serajevo, and refused to give up the commander's name. "I will only answer questions touching myself," was his answer. He heard his sentence, viz., to be hanged, with a proud look of defiance and a smile

* Strength of 4th Corps:—13th and 31st divisions.
† Strength of 3rd Corps:—2nd brigade 4th division; 1st brigade 20th division.
‡ N.B.—Each district affords 3 active and 2 reserve battalions.

which showed his remarkably white teeth. He then had ten minutes granted for prayer, and next was called upon to make a will. His answer was, "My relations will take my money." The Auditor asked whether any one relation in particular was to benefit, and then, my informant says, for the first time there was a kind of longing for life first traceable in his splendid face. His reply was, "Yes, my son Hassan;" and bitterness of thought roused an instinct of ferocity. He was called upon to stand and march to the fatal tree. The man watched his opportunity, sprang at an officer, and seized his revolver, which he fired, but a soldier knocked up the barrel, another ran a bayonet through his side near the hip. In this wounded state he walked to his fate with the same defiant smile, and, though hung without a drop, was dead in seven minutes.

I am told that, besides this man, two others were hung after the guilty were sentenced to be shot. The British Consul will be able to correct this statement. One of the two, Hadji Mufti, was worth 80,000 ducats; he died like a Mahommedan, but showed one weakness, viz., whilst on his trial offered 20,000 ducats to purchase pardon. I fancy that the standing drum-head court-martial at Serajevo accounts for the obstacles placed in the way of my progress to the head-quarters of the army. No doubt a great number of leaders of the opposition have been executed, but, before condemning this policy, one must bear in mind what manner of men the extreme fanatics are; they might certainly have been imprisoned, and perhaps with a better effect hereafter the men committed a heinous offence against Austria, but they are as worthy martyrs as ever gave employment to an executioner—they died for their country and religion.

In all other respects I pronounce the Austrians as guided by the most strict humanitarian principles.

In their own army the lash is not known. The only punishment on service is binding soldiers to trees. I have only witnessed two instances; and I have met an officer on his road to prison for insubordination. The troops commit no crime, and the commanding officers, to the best of their power, pay their way. I am also glad to observe that the confidence of the people daily increases. In towns and districts where, three weeks ago, one met a stray Christian or two, now the inhabitants seem quite at ease.

I regret to report that the Bosnians, on their side, have not met the Austrians half-way. A Captain of Artillery on the Tuzla road called my attention to the desecrated tomb of a comrade he had buried; and the bodies of the soldiers had been exhumed to obtain their clothes. In the case of the officer's tomb, a rustic cross was the cause of insult, and the deed was done by Slav Moslems, but I have no proof that Christian Slavs did not rob the dead soldiers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. GONNE, *Major, 17th Lancers, Military Attaché.*

No. 120.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 697. Secret.)
My Lord, *Vienna, October 1, 1878.*

COUNT ANDRASSY, whom I have not seen for the last week, as he has been unwell and confined to his room, is, I understand, disconcerted by the efforts that are being made by the Emperor of Russia to obtain permission for two Russian officers to proceed to the Austrian head-quarters in Bosnia.

The request was made with an intimation that it would be personally gratifying to His Imperial Majesty, and an answer was returned which was intended to be courteous, but at the same time to show clearly that the presence of these officers was not desired.

The Russian Government, however, availed themselves of the courteous expressions as an implied consent, and the Emperor of Russia has expressed the gratification that it has given him, which, he says, is the greater as the presence of his officers will establish a "lien" between his army and that of the Emperor of Austria—an expression little calculated to diminish the repugnance felt by Count Andrassy to allow them to come.

This circumstance was mentioned to me to-day by Baron Calice, under the seal of

the strictest secrecy, but he was unable to say whether means might yet be found for evading the necessity of granting the permission. I thought that it might be of some use if I informed him that in a recent letter Major Gonne had stated that as there was no enemy in the front of the Austrian army, the presence of a Military Attaché was unnecessary, and he proposed to return to Brod, which he had since done, and under these circumstances your Lordship will probably not think it desirable that he should rejoin Count Szapary.

The "lien" spoken of by the Emperor of Russia is the very last thing that Count Andrassy wishes to establish, and the efforts made by the St. Petersburgh Cabinet afford fresh proof of the danger the Porte is incurring by refusing to conclude the Convention with this country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 130.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 827.) [B.B.]
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September 29, 1878.*

WITH reference to Mr. Plunkett's despatches Nos. 772 and 773 of the 11th instant, I have the honour to inclose herewith a copy of the reply which M. de Giers has given to the two notes which Mr. Plunkett has addressed to him on the subject of the hardships inflicted upon the Mussulman population in Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 130.

M. de Giers to Mr. Plunkett.

Monsieur, *Livadia, le 10 Septembre, 1878.*

VOS notes en date du 29 Août / 10 Septembre et 30 Août / 11 Septembre dernier me sont exactement parvenues ainsi que les extraits de Rapports qui les avaient accompagnés.

Je ne saurais vous cacher, monsieur, mon étonnement de voir des pièces de cette nature servir de thème à une correspondance officielle entre Gouvernement. Je n'y trouve que des accusations sans preuves ni fondement sérieux, basées sur des témoignages d'une partialité évidente; et la réputation de l'armée Russe est trop bien établie pour que la calomnie puisse y porter la moindre atteinte. Mais si vous attachez une si grande valeur aux communications qui vous parviennent sur les prétendues cruautés commises à l'égard des réfugiés Musulmans, de notre coté, nous ne saurions mettre en doute l'esprit de justice et de parfaite impartialité que préside à l'action de nos autorités en Bulgarie.

Quant à la question du rapatriement, dont les difficultés innombrables s'expliquent par les événements antérieurs à la guerre et sont appréciées par la Porte elle-même, elle fait l'objet de nos négotiations avec le Gouvernement Ottoman et ne manquera pas de recevoir la plus équitable solution.

Recevez, &c.
(Signé) GIERS.

No. 131.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 828.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September 29, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a note which has been addressed to Mr. Plunkett by M. de Giers, stating that the Emperor gave orders on the 1st / 13th August

that the ports in the Black Sea should be disarmed, and the torpedoes should be removed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 131.

M. de Giers to Mr. Plunkett.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires, *Livadia, le 1er / 13 Septembre, 1878.*

LE Ministre de la Guerre vient de communiquer au Ministère Impérial des Affaires Etrangères que Sa Majesté l'Empereur a bien voulu ordonner, en date du 1er Août, le désarmement de nos ports de la Mer Noire, et l'enlèvement des torpilles submergés.

En vous informant de cette décision suprême, je saisis, &c.
(Signé) GIERS.

No. 132.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 778. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, October 3, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 776 of yesterday, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that M. Charles Mallet came to me again this morning, and told me that since he had spoken to me the day before, the scheme put forward by M. Zarifi had assumed a totally different aspect.

The scheme, if I understand M. Mallet rightly, now stands as follows:—

From 1,200,000*l.* to 1,500,000*l.* sterling to be advanced by financial companies and bankers in Paris.

This sum to be employed, under the control of a Syndicate appointed by the lenders, for the redemption, not of the caimés, but of the debased Turkish metallic currency, commonly called "les métalliques."

For the present no interest to be paid on the advance, but, from the month of August next, when the Turkish Customs revenue would be free from certain mortgages now in force, a portion of that revenue to be appropriated to the repayment, with interest, in monthly instalments, of the sum advanced.

M. Mallet said that it was calculated that the withdrawal of the debased metallic currency, which now competed in circulation with the caimés, the value of the latter would undoubtedly rise so much, as gradually to relieve the Government and the public in Turkey from the evils produced by the depreciation of this paper money.

M. Mallet proceeded to tell me that the Ottoman Bank, with which he himself is connected, and several other establishments, would be ready to advance the money immediately if they could have some valid security that the engagement of the Porte to appropriate eventually a portion of the Customs revenue to the reimbursement of the loan would be punctually carried into effect.

The only valid security would (M. Mallet seemed to think) be that Her Majesty's Government, or possibly the French Government, should consent to appoint a Commissioner or Delegate to watch over the punctual payment of the monthly instalments. M. Mallet explained that he did not mean a permanent Commissioner, but one appointed *ad hoc* from time to time.

M. Mallet went on to say that he conceived that, by the plan suggested, the Turkish finances would be at once relieved from a very dangerous difficulty, while no immediate burthen would be laid upon them. He seemed to be himself very strongly impressed with the advantages of the plan.

I said that I certainly had no authority to pledge Her Majesty's Government to assume the part he proposed for them in the matter, and I observed that I thought it difficult to take a plan of this kind into consideration, apart from a general survey of the whole question of Ottoman finance, and that if no immediate charge would be thrown by it on the Ottoman Treasury, nevertheless, an important branch of the revenue would be pledged by it eleven months hence.

M. Mallet asked me whether he should mention the affair to M. Waddington, and I answered that I could have no objection to his doing so—that, on the contrary, I should wish the French Government to be treated with entire frankness.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 133.

Mr. Macdonell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 56.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, October 3, 1878.*

COUNT CORTI informs me that he has recalled Signor Mussi from Tunis. Italian Consul at Beyrout replaces him. Latter is highly spoken of.

No. 134.

Mr. Macdonell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 57.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, October 3, 1878.*

COUNT CORTI has requested me to state to your Lordship that he is most anxious to act with Her Majesty's Government in the affairs of Greece.

The Government and country attach great importance to this question, and would be glad to know your Lordship's views on the subject.

Reports have reached him from Monastir and Athens that your Lordship is disposed to modify proposed rectification of frontier.

No. 135.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 892.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 3, 1878.*

I HAVE persuaded Safvet Pasha to send at once for Rustem Pasha, and to name him Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia, as suggested by your Lordship.

No. 136.

Sir H. Drummond-Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 24.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 3, 1878.*

SECOND sitting to-day at Turkish Commissioner's house. I proposed motion, to avoid discussion of powers, that all Commissioners should declare that their signature had equal value in binding their Governments. Accepted unanimously.

I also proposed that majority be accepted as definitive in cases where minorities did not object. In other cases to be considered as *clôture*. No decision is to be re-discussed except on ground of incompatibility of Treaty of Berlin. Passed unanimously. Long discussion on question of finance, in which I insisted on maintaining the privileges of Imperial Ottoman Bank in Eastern Roumelia as emanating from a concession given by the Sultan, whose rights in this respect were unaltered. No decision. Meeting adjourned till Monday, at Grand Vizier's.

No. 137.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 893.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 4, 1878.*

FOLLOWING received from Vice-Consul at Gallipoli, dated October 3:—

"To-day Turkish authorities installed at Kadi-Keui Charkui; to-morrow at Keehan."

No. 138.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Dering.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 4, 1878.*

WITH reference to my telegram of to-day, please inform M. de Bülow that German Commissioner for Eastern Roumelia is the only one without formal power. Ask if there is any objection to give him one.

No. 139.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Colonel Home.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 4, 1878, 6·15 P.M.*

IN reply to your telegram sent on the 1st instant through Sir H. Layard, the Commission should go on with its work, any formal defect can be effaced by subsequent approval. When you ascertain that Russian has not got powers let me know.

No. 140.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir G. Wolseley.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 4, 1878.*

WITH reference to your telegram of 1st instant, No. 34, Treasury approve of your depositing revenue with Ottoman Bank, receiving 4 per cent. interest upon the amount deposited until you require it.

They wish for full details of this arrangement at your early convenience.

No. 141.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 646.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, October 4, 1878.*

I HAVE received Mr. Adams' despatch No. 760, Confidential, of the 26th ultimo, recording a conversation which had passed between him and M. Waddington on the subject of the Commission for the organization of Eastern Roumelia, in the course of which his Excellency referred to the language held by Prince Dondoukoff to Lord Dunoughmore, and expressed his desire to know what line Her Majesty's Government intended to take in this matter, and to be informed confidentially of the tenour of their instructions to Sir H. Drummond-Wolff, which would enable the French Government to draw up their own instructions to the French Commissioner Baron de Ring.

I cannot better respond to the desire expressed by M. Waddington than by authorizing your Excellency to communicate to him, confidentially, the instructions which have been addressed to Sir H. Drummond-Wolff, of which a copy is annexed, and in so doing, your Excellency will inform M. Waddington that Sir H. Drummond-Wolff will endeavour to obtain a Constitution which shall give such security for freedom, property, public order, and purity of justice, that the Bulgarians in Eastern Roumelia shall have no cause to envy the Bulgarians of the Principality. At the same time, he will not lose sight of the necessity of placing sufficient power in the hands of the Executive to enable it to frustrate treasonable intrigues.

Between these lines it will be seen that much is left to Sir H. Drummond-Wolff's judgment, who must be greatly guided by the tone of his brother Commissioners. He will insist on the management of the finances of the province according to the stipulations the Treaty; and will do his utmost to prevent the Russians retaining any portion of the civil Government during the intermediate period.

Sir Drummond-Wolff is further instructed, if any observations are made by Russian officers in authority which imply intentions inconsistent with a due observance of the Treaty of Berlin, to say that Her Majesty's Government are fully resolved to insist on the exact fulfilment of those obligations. In communicating in the above sense with M. Waddington, your Excellency will further assure that Minister of the desire of Her Majesty's Government to act cordially with that of France in carrying out faithfully and efficiently the obligations which they, in common with the other Signatory Powers, have contracted under the Treaty of Berlin.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 142.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Colonel Home.

(No. 20.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 4, 1878.*

I HAVE received through Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople your message, stating your belief that the Russian Commissioner for the demarcation of the frontier of Bulgaria is not provided with formal powers, and asking for instructions how to act in case this should turn out to be the fact.

I have informed you in reply that you should raise no objection on this account to the Commission going on with its work, as any formal defect in the powers of any one of the members can be effaced by subsequent approval of the proceedings of the Commission by the Government concerned.

I should wish, however, to hear from you in due course if you ascertain that such defect exists.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 143.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Dering.

(No. 452.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 4, 1878.*

I LEARN from a telegram from Sir H. Drummond-Wolff, which I repeated to your Excellency this afternoon, that the German Commissioner for Eastern Roumelia is the only member of that Commission who has not received formal powers.

I have to request your Excellency to inform M. de Bülow of this fact, and to ask at the same time whether there is any objection to furnish the German Commissioner with a formal power, signed either by the Emperor of Germany or by his Excellency.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 144.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 73. Political.) [R.R.?]
My Lord, *Scutari, September 22, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report that during the past few days the feeling of impending danger has somewhat subsided, the Christians having ascertained that the counsels of the more prudent of the Mahommedan Chiefs had been listened to, and Hussein Pasha having himself assumed a more confident bearing.

No real change has, however, come about in the intentions of the Mahommedan

Albanians. They are quiet because they believe that the assassination of Mehemet Ali Pasha has put a stop to the proposed cession of territory to Montenegro; and they are also glad to suspend further action until they can see in what manner the Supreme Government is disposed to view the Jacova outrage.

But, as on the first renewal of the attempt to carry out the proposed rectification of boundaries Albanian resistance would be undoubtedly awakened afresh, the Turkish Government ought not to be hurried into issuing orders for the prompt execution of the Treaty stipulations. On the contrary, it would be right for time to be granted to the Porte to mark its good faith by the precautions taken to ensure the peaceful transfer of the ceded territory; and if the Porte declined to avail itself of such delay, I, judging of course from a restricted and purely local field, would be forced to the conclusion that it had wilfully courted failure.

As long as Hussein Pasha is allowed to remain here and the troops are not changed, the policy which called into life the Albanian League of National Safety, and permitted the discipline of the soldiers to be tampered with, must be presumed to still exist.

A new commander, with a certain number of fresh battalions, could easily impose his will on the Scutarines, and secure the peaceful evacuation of Spuz, Podgoritza, and Jabiak. The alteration of the boundaries in the direction of Goussinié, Plava, and Kolascin, I have always explained, is practically beyond the competency of the Turkish Government.

Although I recommend the removal of Hussein Pasha from North Albania, I consider that any province which does not from its geographical position happen to be involved in political questions would be happy in possessing his Excellency for its Governor. He is honest, very energetic, liberal-minded, and has shown considerable aptitude as a civil administrator; but these very qualities have most clearly stamped him as the expounder on these borders of the policy of "no surrender."

Spuz and Podgoritza once in the hands of the Montenegrins the Albanian agitation would gradually subside, especially if the Government is able to mark its belief in a permanent peace by disbanding the Redifs and Mustahfiz. At present much of the existing insecurity arises from the wholesale desertions occurring in the native battalions; and entire districts, to shelter the deserters, are obliged to repel the jurisdiction of the authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 145.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 74. Political.) [R.R.]
My Lord, *Scutari, September 23, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the Committee of the National League of Albania has now fixed upon Ipek as its head-quarters, and has issued invitations to all the districts of North and Middle Albania for Delegates to be sent to join it. Scutari has already complied with the summons; but the social position of the individual dispatched marks the desire of the influential Beys and Agas to keep, for the present, in the background of the movement.

The tribes around Prisrend, Jacova, and Ipek are reported to be in considerable turmoil, as, during the attack which ended in Mehemet Ali Pasha's death, many mountaineers, some of whom remained faithful to the Government, were killed, and their relatives are not inclined to accept the decision of the Committee of the National League that vengeance is not to be sought for the blood thus spilt. A truce has been arranged between the tribes to last until the end of the month of Ramizan, but a report prevails that it has been broken.

If the Austrian troops obtain, during the next few days, any marked successes in Bosnia and the Herzegovina, it is very probable that divided counsels and interests will increase the existing dissensions, and the anarchy thus produced will, at all events, have the advantage of making the disturbed tribes less dangerous than before to their neighbours.

A very powerful fraction of the Mirdite tribe of Pandi, numbering nearly 1,200 guns, resides around Jacova, and it is said that the Mahommedans have discussed the advisability of destroying it. The attempt would probably fail, as the Pandi would be

supported by some Mahommedan tribes, with whom they have been in perpetual alliance, as well as by numerous occult Christian communities existing in all that part of Albania.

An attack on the Fandi would, nevertheless, mean the commencement of a struggle between the Christian and Mahommedan Albanians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 146.

Mr. Macdonell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 421.)
My Lord, *Rome, October* 1, 1878.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 27th instant, informing me that Major Gordon has been appointed British member of the Commission for the demarkation of the southern frontier of Eastern Roumelia, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that, having had occasion to see Count Corti, I communicated to his Excellency the contents of your Lordship's telegram.

Count Corti expressed some astonishment at the information, and remarked that he was not aware that at the Congress any mention had been made of the assembling of a Commission for the purpose above referred to, and that, indeed, your Lordship's telegram was the first intimation his Excellency has had that an Italian Commissioner was expected to proceed to Turkey with that object.

Count Corti appears to be under the impression that there is some misunderstanding with regard to the Commission in question, and, I believe, awaits your Lordship's reply.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 147.

Mr. Macdonell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 422.)
My Lord, *Rome, October* 1, 1878.

IN accordance with the instructions conveyed to me in your Lordship's despatch No. 326 of the 13th instant, relative to the construction placed by the Italian Government on Article XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Count Corti is of opinion that no doubt can be entertained that it was the intention of the Congress that the supervision of the Commission should apply to the administrative reforms to be introduced in Crete, as well as those proposed for other parts of Turkey; and that until the labours of the Turkish Commissions, to be employed in drawing up the schemes of reform, have resulted in the submission of a report to the Sultan, the functions of the European Commission in this respect do not come into play.

Count Corti remarked that he cannot see how the reading of the clause referred to by Sir H. Drummond-Wolff can admit of the slightest doubt; the more so as the European Commission for Eastern Roumelia will have fulfilled its task long before the Special Commission will have elaborated the details of the new laws in each province, and probably the advice of the European Commission will then have to be dispensed with.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 148.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Bey, October 5.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 5 Octobre*, 1878.

JE vous communique ci-après le télégramme que je viens d'adresser à Alexandre Pacha à Vienne. En le communiquant à M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, vous

prierez son Excellence au nom de la Sublime Porte de vouloir bien appuyer la demande y contenue par une démarche amicale auprès du Cabinet de Vienne.

Voici le dit télégramme:—

"Le Général Hafiz Pacha, qui vient de retourner ici de Bosnie, a présenté à la Sublime Porte un Rapport sur les événements de cette province. Vous recevrez par le prochain courrier copie de ce document accompagné d'autres Rapports de nos autorités civiles et militaires et de télégrammes des Délégués de Bosnie sur le même sujet. Il résulte de toutes ces pièces que l'armée Autrichienne s'est livrée au pillage et à la destruction dans les villes de Sérajévo et de Banyaluka, qu'elle continue à commettre diverses atrocités, telles que le massacre de femmes et d'enfants, le pillage de maisons et de magasins, et le meurtre de paysans et de bergers dans les campagnes. En outre, nos soldats qui n'ont pas combattu, et qui n'ont opposé aucune résistance, ont été conduits en Autriche pour y être internés comme prisonniers de guerre. Le Commandant Autrichien a fait évacuer par force notre hôpital militaire, et jeter dans la rue nos blessés en disant injurieusement que des hôtes ne pouvaient pas résider au milieu des hommes. Ces atrocités s'exercent principalement sur les Musulmans, de sorte que la population Musulmane des localités occupées par l'armée Autrichienne se voit menacée d'une extermination générale, et a perdu toute confiance dans les autorités Autrichiennes en présence de ces événements déplorables dont elle a été témoin.

"Nous sommes convaincus que le Cabinet de Vienne sera le premier à déplorer, dans les sentiments d'humanité qui l'animent, un pareil état de choses. Il est certain que l'entrée des troupes Autrichiennes en Bosnie et en Herzégovine avant même l'établissement d'une entente à ce sujet entre les deux Gouvernements, aux termes de l'Article XXV du Traité de Berlin, loin de contribuer au rétablissement de l'ordre et de la tranquillité dans ces deux provinces, n'a eu d'autre effet que d'attirer sur ces contrées des malheurs incalculables et de compromettre l'œuvre de pacification.

"Je n'ai pas besoin de vous faire observer que l'insurrection de Bosnie et d'Herzégovine s'était prolongée parce que les populations Slavs de ces provinces se montraient toujours rebelles envers le Gouvernement Impérial. Aujourd'hui les cruautés et les massacres sont commis à la suite de l'occupation Autrichienne sur les populations Musulmanes.

"Veuillez porter ce qui précède à la connaissance du Comte Andrassy et faire au nom de la Sublime Porte un appel pressant aux sentiments d'humanité de son Excellence afin qu'elle veuille bien prendre les mesures nécessaires pour mettre un terme à un état de choses contraire au mandat que le Gouvernement Austro-Hongrois a reçu de l'Europe.

"La Sublime Porte a cru devoir communiquer cette dépêche aux autres Grandes Puissances en les priant d'appuyer votre demande par une démarche amicale auprès du Cabinet de Vienne.

"Nous espérons que son Excellence le Comte Andrassy voudra bien nous donner en cette circonstance une nouvelle preuve de son amitié, en faisant suspendre pour le moment la marche des troupes Autrichiennes qui pourrait occasionner une plus grande effusion de sang."

No. 149.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 5.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, October 5*, 1878.

FOLLOWING telegram forwarded to Constantinople:—

"Prince Milan is much hurt and disappointed at his friendly message to Sultan remaining unnoticed. The result of this personal slight cannot but prove prejudicial in all respects. I have at the same time been privately requested by the Servian Government to solicit your Excellency's kind intervention on their behalf about boundary. Commission must be at Nisch, but, in the absence of a Turkish Commissioner, cannot begin work."

No. 150.

Mr. Dering to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 52.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, October 5, 1878.*

I CALLED M. de Bülow's attention to-day to the German Commissioner for Eastern Roumelia being the only one unprovided with formal powers, and inquired whether there was any objection to providing him with them. M. de Bülow said that the appointment of the German Commissioner had been made in his absence; and he was consequently unaware of the details of the nomination although he knew it was of a provisional character. Now, however, that the Commission had met he should be provided with the same powers as the other Commissioners. Count Hatzfeldt would doubtless apply for them, when they would be sent.

No. 151.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 245.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 5, 1878.*

MR. FREEMAN has telegraphed as follows:—

"*October* 4. Visegrad, Gorizda, Foca occupied by the Austrians. This completes occupation of the province."

No. 152.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Macdonell.

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Foreign Office, October 5, 1878.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 58 of the 3rd instant, relative to the affairs of Greece, we shall, of course, be willing to mediate in conformity with the Treaty; but we see no present reason for believing that Porte will give way. Taking into consideration the excited feeling among Mahommedans, we believe best chance of settlement favourable to Greece is to be found in postponement. Any precipitate action is likely to produce disaster.

No. 153.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 5, 1878, 5·50 P.M.*

SIR H. ELLIOT'S telegram No. 242, just repeated to you, should receive earnest and immediate attention of Grand Vizier.

No. 154.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1204.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 5, 1878.*

ACCORDING to the information which has reached Her Majesty's Government from Vienna, as well as elsewhere, the Russians appear to contemplate the maintenance in Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia of a considerably larger force than that provided for by Article XXII of the Treaty of Berlin, and there is little doubt that they will make a declaration to that effect, should the Porte announce its inability at the present moment to carry into effect the provisions of the Treaty in regard to Montenegro.

The Austrian Government have expressed themselves as being most anxious that the Porte should deprive the Russians of the excuse that the provisions of the Treaty are not being faithfully carried out, by affording distinct evidence of their intention to evacuate Podgoritza and Spitza at the earliest possible period, and they are of opinion

that it is very desirable that the Porte should at once send troops and commanders on whom it can rely to carry out its instructions with regard to the surrender of both those places.

With reference to this matter I have already instructed your Excellency by telegraph to state to the Grand Vizier that Her Majesty's Government consider that it should receive the earnest and immediate attention of his Highness.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 155.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Macdonell.

(No. 343. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 5, 1878.*

I HAVE received your telegram of the 3rd instant, in which you inform me that Count Corti has expressed his anxiety to act with Her Majesty's Government with regard to the affairs of Greece, and that the Italian Government would be glad to know the views of Her Majesty's Government upon that question.

In reply, I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government will be willing to mediate between Greece and Turkey, in conformity with the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin; but that they do not at present see any reason to believe that the Porte will give way upon this question.

They think, therefore, that, taking into consideration the excited feeling which at present exists among Mahommedans, the best chance of obtaining a settlement favourable to Greece is to be found in postponement, as they are of opinion that any precipitate action in the matter would be likely to produce disastrous results.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 156.

Consul-General Stanley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 6.)

(No. 40. Political.)
My Lord, *Odessa, September 30, 1878.*

THE Moscow Regiment, 1,500 strong, left Nicholaieff this morning for Bourgas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. E. STANLEY.

No. 157.

Major Wilson, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 6.)

(No. 1.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, September 29, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I arrived in Belgrade this morning, and at once placed myself in communication with Mr. Gould, Her Majesty's Representative, who was good enough to present me, during the course of the day, to His Highness Prince Milan.

Lieutenant Ross of Bludensburg, and the Royal Engineers who accompany him, will arrive to-morrow evening, the 30th, and it is proposed that the Commissioner, should leave Belgrade for Nish on Wednesday next, 2nd October.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

No. 158.

Major Wilson, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 6.)

(No. 2.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, September 29, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that, at an informal meeting of the Commissioners appointed for the delimitation of the boundary of Servia, under Article XXXVI of the Treaty of Berlin, this evening, it became apparent that the Commissioners had not been supplied with identical instructions.

The Commissioners of the other Powers believe that their instructions authorize them to proceed with the delimitation of the boundary between Servia and Bulgaria, and propose, in consequence of the advanced state of the season and of the disturbed state of the country through which the new Turco-Servian boundary runs, to commence operations by visiting the Servo-Bulgarian boundary.

The delimitation of the latter boundary is expressly reserved in my instructions for the Bulgarian Commission, which, as I pointed out, was constituted under Article II of the Treaty of Berlin for the delimitation of the entire boundary of Bulgaria, including the portion between Servia and Bulgaria.

I should be glad to know whether your Lordship would wish me to act in this matter with the other Commissioners; and would beg to point out that, in the event of serious difficulties arising with respect to the delimitation of the Turco-Servian boundary, it would probably be possible to complete the delimitation of the Servo-Bulgarian boundary this season.

I have also the honour to inform your Lordship that no Commissioner has been appointed for Turkey, and the Commissioners doubt their power to act without their Turkish colleague. I should be glad if instructions were supplied for my guidance in the event of the non-appointment of a Commissioner for Turkey.

I have the honour to inclose a copy of a telegram on these matters forwarded through Mr. Gould.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure in No. 158.

Major Wilson, R.E., to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.)

COMMISSIONERS of other Powers believe their instructions authorize them to mark the boundary between Servia and Bulgaria, and propose proceeding with that work first in consequence of difficulties connected with boundary between Servia and Turkey. My instructions leave this to Bulgarian Commission: can I act with other Commissioners?

No Commissioner has been appointed for Turkey. Can the Commission proceed to mark Turkish and Servian or Servian and Bulgarian boundary without Turkish Commissioner?

No. 159.

Major Wilson, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 6.)

(No. 3.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, September 30, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that a meeting of the Servian Boundary Commission was held this day in the rooms of M. Aubaret, the French Commissioner, who, prior to my arrival, had been elected President of the Commission. No Commissioner was present on the part of Turkey.

The Commissioners agreed to proceed, in the first place, to Nisch, and there await the arrival of their Turkish colleague.

The Commissioners of the other Powers expressed their belief that their instructions authorized them to proceed with the delimitation of the Servo-Bulgarian boundary, and proposed to visit that portion of the Servian frontier first. The Russian Commissioner also expressed an opinion that a Turkish Commissioner was not necessary for that portion of the boundary.

I informed my colleagues that I had telegraphed to your Lordship for instructions with reference to the proposed delimitation of the Servo-Bulgarian boundary by the Servian Boundary Commission, and pointed out that under Article II of the Treaty of Berlin it was necessary that Turkey, as one of the signatory Powers, should be represented; in this opinion the majority of the Commissioners concurred.

I also stated that I considered the delimitation of the Turco-Servian boundary of more importance under existing circumstances than that of the Servo-Bulgarian boundary, respecting which no questions were likely to arise, and suggested that the Commission should in the first place proceed to the new frontier line between Servia and Turkey proper.

No agreement was arrived at, but I believe the difficulties arising from the advanced state of the season and the disturbed state of the frontier are not such as should delay the work of the Commission in that district, and I hope that on the arrival of their Turkish colleague the Commissioners will decide to proceed at once with the delimitation of the Turco-Servian boundary.

Questions connected with the survey and demarkation of the boundary were discussed, but no decision taken.

The right of the Servian Commissioner to vote on disputed questions was also considered, but no decision was arrived at.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

No. 160.

Sir H. Drummond-Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 6.)

(No. 27.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 6, 1878.*

PRINCE DONDOUKOFF comes here to-morrow. He is, I am told, going to Livadia, and will finally leave Philippopolis by end of October.

No. 161.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 6.)

(No. 169.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October 6, 1878.*

WITH reference to the request reported in Sir H. Layard's telegram No. 874, M. de Giers first replied that nothing was known at Livadia of the proposal concerning Vranja; and in a further telegram, dated 5th instant, states that the Emperor, taking his stand on Treaty of Berlin, will never assent to that proposal.

No. 162.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 65. Political.)
My Lord, *Bosna-Serai, September 20, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 61, Political, of the 2nd instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that three men implicated in the murder of the Italian Consul, M. Perrod, have been captured by the Austrian military authorities and brought to Serajevo.

As far as can yet be ascertained, M. Perrod was attacked by five Mussulman Bosnines when nearing the village of Vraniduk. He was shot and his body thrown into the River Bosna, but an Austrian named Leelmer, who was travelling with him in the same cart, succeeded in escaping, and having crossed the Bosna found refuge in the house of a Mussulman, who treated him with kindness. The following morning he retraced his steps to Zelice, where he also was killed. Neither of the corpses have been found, nor as yet any articles belonging either to the Italian Consul or to Leelmer.

The object of this murderous attack seems to have been robbery, and the driver of

the cart in which M. Perrod and his companion were travelling is believed to have been an accomplice of the murderers. He has not yet been apprehended, but he was heard to say at Zebce that the travellers had a large sum of money with them.

M. Perrod appears to have had no guard or escort with him. In the then disturbed state of the country the Turkish authorities would, even if applied to, have probably been unable to provide him with one.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 163.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 66. Political.)
My Lord, *Bosno-Seraï, September 23, 1878.*

THE Austrian combined movements against the Mussulman insurgents in different parts of this province appear to be having a successful issue, and the information received here seems rather to indicate a breaking up of the insurrection.

On the 21st instant the division which was advancing on Visegrad found the insurgents, to the number it is estimated of 7,000, occupying a strong position at Glasinac, under the command of Ismail Bey. A very severe encounter ensued, resulting in the flight of the insurgents, who abandoned two cannon to the Austrians; a third they managed to carry off with them. The Turkish killed are stated to be many hundreds, and the Austrian loss was also considerable. I have not been able to ascertain the correct number of casualties, but one column alone is reported to have had over 400 killed and wounded. The Austrians reached Rogatica on the following day, and the insurgents are said to be flying in all directions.

On the 18th instant the town of Bilaic surrendered, and on the 22nd Tuzla was occupied by the Austrian troops without fighting.

The Mufti of Taslidza, the leader and promoter of the rising in the Possavina, without whom, indeed, no resistance would have been offered in that district to the Austrians, seems to have disappeared from the scene. At all events, his present whereabouts cannot be discovered, and it is surmised that, finding matters going against him, he has made good his escape to the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar, to avoid falling into the hands of the Austrians. Hadji Loyo, whose part is also played out, for he was never anything but a fanatical brigand, and has on no occasion shown any inclination for real fighting, is said to be healed of the wound in his foot, and in concealment in a village near Foca.

The important places which have still to be occupied by the Austrians are Svornik and Bjelina in the Possavina; Visegrad, Gorazda, and Foca on the Drina; Livno on the western frontier; and Konjica on the Mostar road. With these positions in their possession, and with the overwhelming force now in Bosnia, there ought to be no difficulty in quickly mastering the insurrection. With the exception, I believe, of Livno, all the above-named places formerly proffered their submission, and there is no doubt that the majority of the inhabitants are as anxious as ever for a peaceable occupation of their towns. If, therefore, the insurrection does not then collapse I shall attribute it to the little effort that is made to conciliate and reassure the Mussulman population.

I regret to state that in military circles the prevalent idea seems to be that the Turks, as all Mohammedans are indiscriminately called, cannot be civilized, and that the only sensible policy to be pursued in regard to them is one of extermination. Putting aside the humanitarian view of the case, this is a great error. With the exception of a few Christian merchants in the principal towns, the most intelligent, the richest, and the most influential inhabitants of this province are Mussulmans, and it would be a positive misfortune for the country were all the leading families to become extinct by death or emigration. It must also be borne in mind that the Mussulmans of Bosnia are essentially of the same race and blood as the Christians, and if therefore the prejudices of religion can be conquered are equally susceptible of civilization. Myself, I believe that in the course of a generation numbers of them will be found to have reverted to the faith of their ancestors, but to attain this happy result there must be an absence of anything approaching to religious persecution, and time and education must be left to quietly effect the change.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 164.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 1202. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 28, 1878.*

I INCLOSE an extract from a letter addressed to the Directors of the Imperial Ottoman Bank by their agent, who had been sent to Philippopolis to establish a branch there. The letter has been kindly communicated to me by Mr. Foster. The language held by Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff to the writer is so entirely in accordance with what his Excellency said to Lord Donoughmore, as reported to your Lordship through Sir Henry Drummond-Wolff, that it appears to me important that your Lordship should be made acquainted with it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 164.

Extract of a Letter dated Philippopolis, September 24, 1878.

HIER, Lundi matin, j'ai eu la première entrevue avec le Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff, qui, instruit par le Gouverneur Baron de Hübsch du but de mon arrivée, me recevait avec la déclaration catégorique qu'il ne souffrirait sous aucune condition l'installation de la Banque Impériale Ottomane à Philippopoli.

"La Banque pourrait attendre quelques semaines et si alors il ne serait plus Gouverneur on pourrait faire ce que l'on voudra. Il aurait protégé les établissements de la Banque là où il les avait trouvés à Andrinople, Roustchouk, et prochainement à Varna, mais il ne voudrait pas prendre la responsabilité d'en autoriser des nouveaux. La Banque, comme toutes les autres entreprises étrangères—le Prince visait principalement le Baron Hirsch—n'auraient fait que du mal au pays; elles s'associaient à un Gouvernement malhonnête pour exploiter le pays, duquel elles tiraient toujours des bénéfices sans rien rendre au pays. Ainsi la Banque favoriserait probablement, soit directement soit indirectement, en fournissant des capitaux aux Juifs, la vente à vil prix des propriétés des paysans ayant actuellement un besoin urgent d'argent, et tout le pays pourrait ainsi devenir la proie des Juifs, comme cela s'est vu en Roumanie, Russie, Galicie, et en d'autres pays Slaves. Lui, le Prince, ne pourrait favoriser qu'une institution réellement nationale, qui serait guidée par un sentiment patriotique."

Il ne m'était pas difficile de réfuter ces appréhensions, et le Prince, devenu plus calme et même aimable, pria alors de lui écrire une lettre au sujet de la création d'une succursale à Philippopoli. Je lui ai remis cette lettre aujourd'hui, mais je n'ai pu le voir et je n'aurai sa réponse que ce soir.

Il est évident que le Prince n'a pas le moindre droit de s'opposer à l'installation d'une succursale de la Banque à Philippopoli, chef-lieu de la Roumélie Orientale. Pourtant j'ai préféré de procéder à l'établissement d'une Agence avec le consentement du Prince, avec lequel la Banque aura à négocier pour régler les rapports de nos établissements en Bulgarie avec le nouveau Gouvernement.

Le Prince m'a longuement exposé ses vues sur la création d'une Banque d'Etat et principalement d'un crédit foncier pour la Bulgarie; il m'a prié de lui soumettre deux projets y relatifs. Il veut que ces institutions aient un caractère éminemment national, et il a fait comprendre que la succursale de Philippopoli devrait également dépendre de la Banque Bulgare! Je ferai ces projets pour les soumettre à votre appréciation.

Dans la suite de ma conversation avec le Commissaire Impérial, qui a duré une heure et demie il s'est prononcé sur le Traité de Berlin, la formation de la Roumélie Orientale, et la Commission Européenne d'une telle façon que la prompte exécution des travaux de la Commission ne paraît pas avoir beaucoup de chance. En effet, le Gouvernement Russe s'est installé ici comme s'il ne devait plus quitter ce pays. L'armée Bulgare que l'on a à peine commencé à organiser au nord des Balkans, est portée dans cette province au chiffre respectable de 25,000 à 30,000 hommes, et composée d'infanterie, de cavalerie, et d'artillerie. Il y a quinze jours, le Prince pouvait passer en revue à Philippopoli une armée Bulgare de 12,000 hommes, dont tous les officiers et sergents sont Russes.

"Que voulez vous faire de cette armée, me dit le Prince; les officiers jetteront un

brevet du Sultan à la figure de la Commission; les Bulgares ne serviront pas sous des officiers Turques, ils s'enfuiront dans les montagnes et feront du brigandage de l'insurrection; voudra-t-on alors peut-être que l'armée Russe tire sur eux, leurs frères, parce que cela plaît ainsi à la Commission?"

Puis les finances. Le Traité de Berlin stipule que l'administration financière passe entre les mains de la Commission. Mais je ne me soumettrai jamais à cela; je ne rendrai jamais les finances à la Commission.

L'armée Russe d'occupation doit être payée sur les revenus de la province; est-ce que les officiers et les soldats pourront jamais accepter de l'argent de cette Commission, qui viendra ici comme les héros de la Belle Hellène? les Ajax Menelaos; de cette Commission qui n'est qu'une bouffonade d'Offenbach?"

Je vous ai cité, messieurs, les mots du Prince Gouverneur, Commissaire Impérial, pour vous donner une idée de l'accueil que la Commission aura à attendre de la part des autorités Russes. Ajoutez à cela la nouvelle qui m'a été donnée par le Gouverneur, que l'armée d'occupation sera portée à 125,000 hommes, non compris l'armée Bulgare, alors l'avenir ne paraît pas sous un jour très-pacifique, et l'exécution du Traité de Berlin, pour ce qui est de l'organisation d'une Roumélie Orientale, bien problématique.

No. 165.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October 7.*)

(No. 1203.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September 28, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Acting Consul Calvert, giving further particulars regarding the Turkish villages to the north-east of Adrianople, which were attacked by the Bulgarians and Greeks of the neighbourhood on the withdrawal of the Russian troops.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 165.

Acting Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Adrianople, September 25, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 27th ultimo, reporting that a number of Turkish villages lying north-east of Adrianople had been attacked by Bulgarians and Greeks from the neighbourhood on the withdrawal of the Russian troops from those parts, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that deputations from three of the villages in question, namely, Ermeni-Mahallesi, Malkotchlar, and Belevren have just arrived here, and have laid their case before the Russian authorities. It is only now that these people have considered it safe to venture on the journey. In addition to the details which they furnished me with as to the occurrences at their own villages, I have obtained from the Delegates information regarding four other ravaged places. Three of these last were not included in the list given in my former despatch. The number of villages attacked, so far as I am at present informed, is thus brought up to sixteen.

At Toptchilar (forty-five houses, all Turkish), according to the Delegates from the neighbouring village of Ermeni-Mahallesi, a number of Bulgarians from Kyzildja-Kilissa, Dikmour-Akhlatly, Elmaly, and other places, broke into the houses, and, collecting all the inhabitants, men and women, in one spot, extorted whatever money they could by threats, ill-treatment, and bloodshed. They killed two men named Gumush-Kozaglu Ali and Arabadjioglu Osman, and wounded a third, Batak Omer. They also outraged a number of women. All the remaining cattle and the whole of the stores of grain and forage belonging to the village were carried off by the marauders.

At Ermeni-Mahallesi (fifty houses, all Turkish), situated two hours on this side of

Belevren, a band of Bulgarians from Pasha-Kioï presented themselves. They did not enter the village, but contented themselves with carrying off, from near the threshing-ground, all the cattle belonging to the village and to the refugees quartered there; in all, 180 head of oxen, buffaloes, horses, &c., and 500 sheep. They also took away the whole of the grain and hay which remained on the ground. No steps have been taken since the arrival of the Russian troops sent from Adrianople, either for arresting the robbers or recovering the stolen property. Two Cossacks are now stationed at the village.

Malkotchlar (forty houses, all Turkish) was visited some time after the other places, and not until the night following the arrival of a detachment of Cossacks sent from Adrianople to be distributed through the district. The marauders, a large band, were evidently ignorant of the presence of the troops, for, as soon as they became aware of it, they beat a retreat. One man was captured by the Cossacks. He proved to be a Bulgarian from Derletli-Agatch, a village one hour from Malkotchlar. Two Cossacks were left in the village. Nevertheless, on the 18th instant a party of nine Bulgarians from Kara-Hamzalar (three hours from Malkotchlar) came and carried off thirteen buffaloes and cows from the outskirts of the village. The Turks of Malkotchlar thereupon applied to the officer in command at Gumbilar for some soldiers, to go with them in search of the plundered cattle. The officer replied that he could not spare any, all his men being on the sick list. The Delegates from Malkotchlar, in making this statement, admitted that there was some ground for the excuse, scarcely a Russian in the district being free from fever. The Turk who was kidnapped from this village, and held to ransom, in June last, as reported in my despatch of the 15th ultimo, has, the Delegates say, been put to death.

Belevren (200 houses, all Turkish) was attacked by a mixed band of Bulgarians from Pasha-Kioï and of Greeks from Papas-Kioï, Buyuk-Boyalik, and Kutchuk-Boyalik, under the leadership of one Yorghi Pehlivan, a Bulgarian of Pasha-Kioï. The marauders entered the village, maltreating the Turks, and wounding one of them named Hussein Onbashi. They did not, however, outrage any women. They carried off with them 100 head of cattle belonging to the village and to the refugees there; also 23 horses and 232 sheep. Five Cossacks are now quartered at Belevren; but, as elsewhere, nothing has been done in the shape of redress, and in the meanwhile their late assailants threaten to come again as soon as the Russians quit the place, when they will "burn, kill, and destroy, and turn the Turks out of the country."

Youmsou Kaya (80 houses, all Turkish), which is five hours beyond Gumbilar, was mentioned by the Delegates as having suffered; but they could give no particulars beyond that the village was entered, the houses plundered, and all the cattle carried off. They had not heard of any acts of personal violence.

From Amatlar (120 houses, all Turkish) all the live stock was carried off by the Bulgarians of Kosdjughaz and Terzidereh, who did not, however, enter the village.

Likewise from Akhlafly (about 150 houses, all Turkish) the whole of the village cattle was swept off, together with forty waggon loads of wheat. The marauders were from the Bulgarian villages of Kraishova, Goktepeh, Tchobanli, and Bourgasdjik. They did not enter the village.

Karabadlar (50 houses, all Turkish) was attacked by the same band as Toptchilar, and was treated in much the same way. The houses were all sacked. No persons were killed; but one man, named Ouzoun Ali, was tortured with fire to make him produce his money.

In none of the above cases do the Russian authorities appear to have made the slightest effort to bring the offenders to justice or to recover the plundered property, although ample time for doing so has now elapsed; and the Turkish Delegates left their respective villages only a week ago. Their chances of success in the object of their mission, which is practically limited to the latter point, appear therefore to be exceedingly slender. Their property being now lost to them, and securely transferred to Christian hands, all that they can now hope for is protection in the future. The facts are there to prove that Russian policy, whilst ready enough to acquire influence over the Mussulman population by playing the part of protector to that extent, does not choose to alienate Bulgarian sympathies by going the lengths of showing displeasure at Bulgarian misdeeds, or inviting the misdoers to make amends to their victims.

In the meanwhile, another step has been taken towards completing the ruin of the hapless Mussulman population in the occupied districts, by reducing that small section of it which kept to their homes to the same level of destitution as the mass of fugitives. The fate of the sixteen villages above referred to is an eloquent comment

on the Russian assertion that those fugitives owe to their senseless fears alone the losses and sufferings they have endured.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

No. 166.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 177.)
*Belgrade, October 2*1878
My Lord,

MAJOR WILSON and Lieutenant Ross, with three privates of the Royal Engineers, as well as the other members of the Boundary Commission, left Belgrade this morning for Nisch, where they expect to arrive on the 4th instant at night.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 167.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 701. Confidential.)
Vienna, October 2, 1878.
My Lord,

COUNT ANDRASSY, whom I saw this morning, spoke to me of an intimation which was about to be made by the Russian Government that it would be necessary for them to keep 100,000 instead of the 50,000 men fixed by the Treaty in the Turkish provinces during the winter, as the Porte did not carry out its engagements in regard to the evacuation of Podgoritza and Spizza. The large force sent by Austria-Hungary to occupy Bosnia and the Herzegovina was also considered to be a reason for the maintenance of the Russian army at a greater strength than was contemplated by the Congress.

Upon that point Count Andrassy observed, with much energy, that not a syllable had been dropped at Berlin with reference to the number of men to be employed in the occupation; and if the Imperial Government were open to reproach at all for the manner in which they had carried it out, it was rather for having at first sent too few than too many men. The Imperial Government were, however, perfectly free to exercise their own discretion in the matter, and he could not admit the Russians to have the slightest justification for keeping in Bulgaria and East Roumelia a force greater than provided by Treaty, because they found the Austrian army in Bosnia stronger than they had anticipated. Nevertheless, the progress that was being made in the pacification of the country was now so satisfactory that he hoped a very large reduction in the force would almost immediately be made.

The Russians were evidently looking for a pretext for not carrying out their part of the Treaty of Berlin, and this pretext was afforded them as long as the stipulations respecting the Montenegrin frontier were left unexecuted by the Porte. For this reason he was most anxious that the Sultan's Government should give evidence of an intention to evacuate Podgoritza and Spizza at the earliest period possible. He did not, he said, wish to put any undue pressure on the Porte by urging it to steps which might lead to an outbreak if taken without due precaution; but he wanted it at once to send fresh troops, with Commanders who could be relied upon to carry out orders for the evacuation of the two places named. He said that the reports of the Austrian Consul at Prisrend were to the effect that, notwithstanding the menacing attitude of the Albanian League, a large proportion of the population was not inclined to join it, and there was every reason to believe that a show of determination on the part of the Porte to carry out the Treaty would be sufficient.

I told Count Andrassy that the last reports from Her Majesty's Consul at Scutari were that the intimation of an intention to order the evacuation of Podgoritza would be like the application of a match to a barrel of gunpowder; and his Excellency repeated that, although this was probably an exaggerated view, what he wished was that the Porte should lose no time in taking the measures to prevent such an explosion, and at the same time to evacuate the places they had to give over.

I asked his Excellency the view that he took as to the period within which the

Russians are bound to have reduced their forces in Bulgaria and East Roumelia to the prescribed strength, and to have completed the evacuation of the Turkish territory not included in those provinces, remarking that, though they had left San Stefano, there was little appearance of an early intention of abandoning Adrianople; that military stores were still being passed over to Rustchuk; that contracts for flour for 180,000 men were said to have been made at Bucharest; and that the Russian Generals were openly declaring that there was no thought of bringing down their army to anything like the strength fixed.

Count Andrassy answered that he had no hesitation in asserting the Russian army to be bound to evacuate the territory beyond Bulgaria and East Roumelia, and to reduce its strength to 50,000 men in those provinces within three months from the exchange of the ratifications of the Treaty of Berlin, which must be regarded as the definitive Treaty spoken of in the preliminary Treaty of San Stefano. He was satisfied that in this view he would be supported by every other Government.

I have never seen Count Andrassy show more distrust of Russia, or less inclination to follow her lead, than he did during this conversation. He attributes much of the excitement in Albania to Russian intrigues, by which it is sought to disseminate the belief that Austria has designs upon the country far beyond Mitrovitza, and he thinks that if the Albanians once became convinced that no such thought was entertained, and that Austria was resolved to be a check upon the Servians and Montenegrins, their feelings about the occupation would entirely change. He said he had himself always been averse to the cession of any part of Albania to Montenegro, for he knew the resistance it was likely to provoke, but no other Government had considered itself sufficiently interested in the question to support him in opposing the wishes of Russia, and he had been obliged to give way; and if he now showed so much anxiety about putting the Montenegrins in possession of the districts, it was not out of any affection for the arrangement itself, but solely, as he had so often repeated, for the sake of the strict adherence to every portion of the Treaty of Berlin, by which alone we could hope to avoid future serious difficulty, and to defeat the endeavours of Russia to evade it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 168.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 703.)
Vienna, October 2, 1878.
My Lord,

I TOOK an opportunity this morning of asking Count Andrassy whether he did not consider that the IVth Article of the Treaty now being proposed by Russia to Turkey, by which the Porte would be debarred from all share in the civil administration of East Roumelia till the Russian evacuation was completed, was contrary to what was intended by the Treaty of Berlin.

He said it was so entirely in contradiction to the Treaty that the Porte ought to refuse to sign it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 169.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 704.)
Vienna, October 2, 1878.
My Lord,

COUNT ANDRASSY mentioned to-day that he had been rather alarmed by hearing that Her Majesty's Government favoured the idea said to have been put forward by Midhat Pasha for substituting the cession of Crete to Greece for the rectification of the frontier of Thessaly and Epirus, and it had been a relief to him to learn from Count Beym that such was not the case.

His objection to it was, that it was not in accordance with the decisions come to at Berlin.

I said I had heard nothing from your Lordship on the subject, and I abstained

from expressing any opinion about it; but it scarcely appears to me that if Turkey and Greece come to an amicable understanding about such a substitution it could be regarded as an infringement on the Treaty of Berlin, in which the Powers confined themselves to the expression of a wish that the two Governments should, between themselves, come to an arrangement about their frontiers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 170.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 705.)
My Lord, *Vienna, October 3, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, to your Lordship, the inclosed despatch, which has been addressed to me by Major Gonne, Military Attaché to this Embassy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 170.

Major Gonne to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Brod, September 29, 1878.*

MY judgment was not at fault when I anticipated the movements of the head-quarters of the 3rd Corps, and established myself at Doboj. I left Doboj on the 27th, simply because I was washed out by heavy rain. Field-Marshal Lieutenant Szapary reached this place on the 28th, and found that the flood had swept away the bridge;* he therefore must retrace his steps to Gracanica and march thence to Maglai, where there is a flying bridge; it will take him fourteen days to reach Serajevo. I have resolved to return at once to Vienna: by the middle of October the operations of the 1st Division in the Visegrad neighbourhood will be completed, and I could only march to Serajevo (where there is an English Consul) and back. I consider it my duty, therefore, to save the public further expense.

The 1st Division, General Vechiry commanding, marched out of Serajevo to the Upper Drina viâ Mokro Rogatica, towards Visegrad, in consequence of reported movements of Albanians from Novi-Bazar, and fought one of the most decisive actions of the campaign. The enemy lost two guns, and left 500 dead on the field near Zemelj; it is reported that a further effort will be made from Novi-Bazar to assist the retreat of Szapary's enemy; but the Austrians are in sufficient strength now to draw a cordon across the Stoke Foca course of the Drina, and are thoroughly masters of the situation. The same may be reported of Turkish Croatia. It only remains for the troops to search for arms and improve roads. No offensive movement is contemplated against the Novi-Bazar Pashalik this year, but sufficient troops will remain at Serajevo in the winter to undertake offensive operations next spring.

The important duty of forming a gendarmerie progresses slowly. As yet nothing more has been done than an appeal for volunteer officers from the "Grenze" (military colony), those who can speak the language only being accepted.

The Austrians have to combat great difficulties in road-making. Last night the Save washed away the embankment opposite this town. Gravel can be obtained at few places, and these are as a rule in the beds of rivers (brooks); moreover, the Engineers, clever enough in many particulars of their craft, are bad road-makers. The narrow line of railway is in progress as far as Doboj, but undoubtedly the best economy to be employed is a speedy diminution of the number of troops requiring food. The strength over the frontier is out of all proportion to the need; heavy batteries, with the regulation equipment and stores, are dragged about the country without any reason. And here one remarks the disadvantage of hard and fast regulations.

The campaign is an exceptional one, and required exceptional equipment on the part of the invading columns. The printed regulations did not admit of modification. A three-horse waggon carries so much weight, and can progress along a good average flat road, but the fact that the roads of Bosnia are not flat, and in wet weather are

* I sketched the bridge and gave it to the artist of the "Illustrated London News."

decidedly bad, has not induced the authorities to decrease the freight, or increase the horse power; the consequence is that each column is brought to a halt after the horses have expended their power in vain efforts to pass bad places, and in the end six or more horses are used to drag each waggon by turn. On these points I have naturally made special notes.

No army required the experience of war to correct faults of peace teaching more than the Austrian; but I may here remark that Austrian infantry battalions, mobilized and fed on the war ration, are a far more imposing force than the peace-establishment conscript. One hardly recognizes them as the same troops, so great a difference does the presence of older reservists and sufficient food make in the appearance of the ranks. I shall hereafter call special attention to the Swedish spade carried by each rear-rank man. Its utility can hardly be over-estimated, serving as it does to cut, hack, or dig. I have seen nothing equal to it in Europe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. GONNE, *Major, 17th Lancers, Military Attaché.*

No. 171.

Mr. Dering to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 561.)
My Lord, *Berlin, October 5, 1878.*

I CALLED on Herr von Bülow this morning, and informed him your Lordship had received news of the first meeting of the Commission for the organization of Eastern Roumelia, which had been principally occupied with formalities, such as election of President and Secretaries.

A question, however, I said, had been raised as to the powers of the Commissioners, and, on their production, it was found that the German Commissioner was alone unprovided with formal powers. I said your Lordship had instructed me to ask his Excellency whether there would be any objection to the German Commissioner being furnished with such formal instructions as would place him in the same position as his colleagues.

Herr von Bülow replied that the appointment of Herr von Braunschweig had been made during his absence, and at that moment he could not call to mind the exact circumstances of his nomination, although he knew the name had been approved by His Majesty and the Crown Prince, and that the appointment was a provisional one, as the person they had destined for the post was not yet free. Now, however, that the sittings of the Commission had commenced, the German Commissioner should be furnished with similar powers to those of his colleagues. In the ordinary way, Count Hatzfeldt would doubtless apply for them, when they would be sent. He did not think their temporary absence need interfere with the sittings of the Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY NEVILL DERING.

No. 172.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Beg.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Beg, October 7.)

M. le Chargé d'Affaires, *Constantinople, le 25 Septembre, 1878.*

JE vous transmets, ci-joint, pour votre information, copie, avec son annexe, d'un Rapport de l'Ambassade Impériale à Berlin contenant des renseignements au sujet de l'engagement à Munich d'un certain nombre d'anciens soldats Bavarois qui auraient été expédiés en Italie pour être dirigés de là en Thessalie.

Recevez, &c.
(Signé) SAFVET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 172.

Ohan Effendi to Safvet Pasha.

Berlin, le 4 Septembre, 1878.

J'AI l'honneur de soumettre sous ce pli à votre Altesse un Rapport que notre Consul à Munich vient de m'adresser, pour me transmettre des informations que je lui avais demandées, relativement à l'engagement à Munich d'un certain nombre d'anciens soldats Bavarois expédiés dans ces derniers jours en Italie.

D'après mes renseignements, dont je ne suis pas encore à même de garantir l'exactitude, mais qui s'accordent avec ceux de notre Consul à Munich, ces individus, engagés par des agents Grecs, seraient destinés à aller renforcer un corps de volontaires en formation en Italie dont on désigne la Thessalie comme le champ d'action.

J'ai déjà entretenu de ce mouvement, quoique sans y donner aucun caractère officiel, M. de Radowitz, qui m'a promis de vérifier la chose.

J'ai en même temps renouvelé ma prière à notre Consul à Munich de faire tout son possible pour découvrir les agents chargés de cette expédition.

Je prie, &c.

Inclosure 2 in No. 172.

M. Grathwohl to M. Bagdadlian.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires, *Consulat de Turquie, Munich, le 30 Août*, 1878.

EN réponse aux deux lettres dont vous avez bien voulu m'honorer, en date du 23 et 27 du mois courant, je m'empresse par la présente de vous faire part que vingt-sept Bavarois, anciens soldats, ont été expédiés à Gênes pour servir dans le corps de Menotti Garibaldi. On leur a dit que l'expédition est destinée pour l'Albanie. M. d'Haibé, qui fait des efforts pour découvrir l'agent, croit que ce corps est destiné plutôt pour la Thessalie en faveur des Grecs.

Tous ces gens ont été engagés dans un cabaret d'eau-de-vie à Fischergraben (ruelle ici) sans savoir l'agent définitif, car ils ont reçu 20 m. d'un inconnu.

Justement en ce moment j'ai reçu une lettre d'un certain Jean Apéovié, à Eberbach (Grand Duché de Bade), avec la demande s'il est vrai que la Turquie cherche à engager des ouvriers, ou que Bitman Goëzlich veut former une compagnie de quatre-vingt hommes.

Je tâcherai d'apprendre de lui des nouvelles plus précises en répondant à sa lettre.

Le Secrétaire de l'Ambassade Russe ici veut engager un corps sanitaire pour le Caucase, et offre 1 m. 50 sch. par jour aux simples soldats.

L'Envoyé de Bavière à St. Pétersbourg, le Comte Fugger-Kirchberg-Weissenhorn, fait confectionner à Fürth (près Nuremberg) des chemises et différentes fournitures pour l'armée Russe.

Aussitôt que j'apprendrai de nouveaux détails, je ne manquerai pas de vous rappeler.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) W. F. GRATHWOHL.

No. 173.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Bey, October 7.)

M. le Chargé d'Affaires, *Constantinople, le 25 Septembre*, 1878.

POUR faire suite à mes précédentes communications, je vous envoie, ci-joint, pour votre information, copie d'un nouveau Rapport de notre Ministre à Athènes relatif à l'attitude menaçante du Gouvernement Hellénique et aux intrigues de ses agents dans nos provinces limitrophes.

Recevez, &c.

(Signé) SAFVET.

Inclosure in No. 173.

Photiadès Bey to Safvet Pasha.

(Confidentiel.)

Altesse, *Athènes, le 17 Septembre*, 1878.

JE profite du départ de mon fils, Second Secrétaire de cette Légation Impériale, qui se rend en congé à Constantinople, et que je recommande à la haute bienveillance de votre Altesse, pour donner ici un aperçu de la situation politique en Grèce.

La nouvelle Note Circulaire adressée le 7 courant par M. Delyanni aux Grandes Puissances pour solliciter leur médiation dans la question de la rectification de la frontière, conformément à l'Article XXIV du Traité de Berlin, constitue, suivant la déclaration du Gouvernement Hellénique, la dernière démarche pacifique que tente la Grèce en vue d'un arrangement à l'amiable du différend Turco-Hellénique. Si la médiation que les Hellènes viennent de demander ne leur fait pas obtenir ce qu'ils convoitent avec tant d'ardeur, il est indubitable qu'ils n'hésiteront plus à créer un *casus belli*.

La Grèce prétend être autorisée à se fonder légitimement sur l'Article XXIV du Traité de Berlin qu'elle considère d'autant plus comme un titre légal que l'Europe elle-même semble partager et approuver sa manière de voir à cet égard.

Votre Altesse doit, en outre, être informée que le Cabinet d'Athènes n'attache aucune importance aux réserves faites par nos Plénipotentiaires au Congrès, et mentionnées dans le Protocole, relatif à la question Hellénique. D'après le Gouvernement Hellénique, le Traité seul a un caractère solennel, obligatoire et définitif qu'on ne saurait reconnaître aussi aux Protocoles. Or, la Turquie ayant signé purement et simplement l'instrument du Traité, sans avoir fait insérer dans le texte de ce dernier une réserve quelconque, est tenue, selon les Ministres du Roi Georges, de remplir les obligations qui résultent pour elle de l'Article XXIV du dit Traité.

Telle est, Altesse, la théorie du Cabinet d'Athènes.

D'un autre côté, l'accueil peu chaleureux qu'on croit ici avoir été fait par l'Europe à la Circulaire de votre Altesse en date du 8 Août, l'initiative prise par le Prince de Bismarck d'une action collective à exercer sur la Sublime Porte en faveur de la Grèce, et, surtout, la promesse donnée au Gouvernement Hellénique par certaines Puissances de protéger et de garantir les côtes et les ports de mer de la Grèce contre toute attaque de la flotte Impériale Ottomane dans l'éventualité d'une rupture entre les deux pays, contribuent à encourager au plus haut degré la nation Hellénique à se prononcer pour les hostilités ouvertes contre la Turquie, en cas d'insuccès de la médiation Européenne.

Par ce qui précède, votre Altesse voudra bien constater qui si la dernière démarche Hellénique auprès des Puissances échoue, il n'y a pas l'ombre d'un doute que les Hellènes recourront à la force pour prendre possession du territoire qu'ils tiennent, disent-ils, de la volonté de l'Europe.

En attendant, je ne cesse de faire observer tant aux Ministres du Roi Georges qu'aux Représentants des Puissances à Athènes que, le désir de l'Europe étant que la question Hellénique soit traitée et résolue uniquement par la voie diplomatique, les armements et les préparatifs militaires auxquels la Grèce se livre journellement avec une si grande activité, sont complétement inutiles, et qu'ils ne tendent qu'à obérer son budget. J'ai développé cette idée, qui me paraît de nature à servir les intérêts de la Sublime Porte, particulièrement à Mr. Corbett, Ministre d'Angleterre, que j'ai beaucoup exhorté à conseiller aux Hellènes de désarmer et de renoncer à la concentration de 40,000 hommes, et à la formation d'un corps de réserve de 35,000 soldats, ces graves mesures devant occasionner d'énormes dépenses à la Grèce, sans pouvoir lui assurer le moindre avantage pratique probable, d'abord, parce que l'Europe répudie toute solution violente de cette question, et, ensuite, parce que la Grèce, abandonnée à ses propres forces dans une guerre avec l'Empire Ottoman, ne tarderait certes pas à être écrasée par celui-ci.

Mon collègue de la Grande Bretagne m'a promis de communiquer ces réflexions à qui de droit.

Enfin, je ne dois pas omettre d'appeler la sérieuse attention de votre Altesse sur le fait suivant: le Cabinet d'Athènes s'évertue à représenter à l'Europe l'état des populations de l'Épire et de Thessalie sous les couleurs les plus sombres, et s'empresse toujours de provoquer des troubles et toute sorte de désordres dans ces deux provinces de l'Empire, afin de pouvoir ainsi justifier ou plutôt motiver, à sa façon, une nouvelle invasion Hellénique. Pour parer donc à cette fâcheuse éventualité et empêcher le mauvais effet moral que produisent malheureusement sur les Puissances les plaintes

des habitants de ces contrées, quelques mensongères et quelque exagérées qu'elles soient, et dont le Gouvernement Hellénique a constamment été le principal instigateur et l'avocat intéressé, il est nécessaire d'envoyer aux autorités Impériales, civiles et militaires, de l'Epire et de la Thessalie, des ordres sévères leur prescrivant la vigilance la plus active à l'égard des menées et des intrigues Helléniques.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) J. PHOTIADES.

No. 174.

Séfvet Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Bey, October 7.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 5 Octobre*, 1878.

JE vous communique ci-après pour votre information le télégramme suivant que je viens d'adresser à Alexandre Pacha à Vienne:—

"Le télégramme Confidentiel de votre Excellence en date du 30 Août, No. 195, a fait l'objet d'un examen attentif au Conseil des Ministres qui s'est réuni plusieurs fois, et, à la suite de longues délibérations, a adopté la résolution suivante:—

"'La Convention actuellement proposée par le Comte Andrassy pouvait être acceptée par le Gouvernement Impérial avant l'entrée des troupes Autrichiennes en Bosnie et Herzégovine si elle contenait, bien entendu, la reconnaissance des droits souverains de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan et du caractère provisoire de l'occupation. Aujourd'hui nous déplorons les faits qui se sont produits dans ces deux provinces. En effet, l'effusion de sang, la dévastation, les massacres, et toutes les calamités qui ont été la conséquence d'une occupation étrangère ont profondément affligé la nation Ottomane, et il répugne à Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan de consacrer par un acte solennel les souffrances cruelles de ses sujets Musulmans, comme Souverain et comme Calife de cette population. La Sublime Porte croit donc plus conforme à ses intérêts et à sa dignité de s'abstenir de signer une Convention, même si cet Acte renfermait les clauses relatives au maintien des droits souverains de notre auguste Maître et au caractère provisoire de l'occupation, et de s'en tenir purement et simplement, tout en maintenant ses droits sur les deux provinces sus-mentionnées, aux stipulations de la Déclaration signée à Berlin le 13 Juillet par les Plénipotentiaires Austro-Hongrois.'

"Veuillez faire part de cette résolution à son Excellence le Comte Andrassy, résolution que le Gouvernement Impérial s'est trouvé dans la pénible nécessité de prendre, tout en lui donnant au nom de la Sublime Porte les assurances les plus formelles que cette décision ne saurait nullement altérer les relations d'amitié si heureusement existantes entre les deux Gouvernements, et que Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan ne restera pas moins ami et allié de Sa Majesté l'Empereur. Vous ajouterez que nous espérons que nos sentiments à cet égard seront partagés par le Cabinet d'Autriche-Hongrie et qu'il continuera à nous conserver sa bienveillante amitié.

Quant au Sandjak de Novi-Bazar, il jouit actuellement d'une parfaite tranquillité, et la Sublime Porte prendra toutes les mesures nécessaires pour maintenir cette tranquillité et empêcher l'introduction en Bosnie à travers de ce territoire de tout ce qui pourrait alimenter l'agitation des contrées occupées par l'armée Autrichienne. Aussi, en présence des dispositions actuelles des esprits en Albanie, le Gouvernement Impérial se fait-il un devoir de prier le Cabinet de Vienne de vouloir bien renoncer à l'occupation de Novi-Bazar, qui pourrait attirer sur ce pays des désastres redoutables."

No. 175.

Count Deym to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 7.)

Belgrave Square, le 5 Octobre, 1878.

M. le Marquis,

JE suis chargé de communiquer à votre Excellence que M. Jules Zwiedinek, Chevalier de Südenhorst, Agent Diplomatique et Consul-Général Impérial et Royal à Bucarest, a été nommé par le Gouvernement Impérial et Royal délégué pour la Commission Consulaire qui, conformément à l'Article VI du Traité de Berlin, doit assister conjointement avec le Commissaire Turc, le Commissaire Russe, dans l'administration provisoire de la Bulgarie.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) Cte. F. DEYM.

No. 176.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Sir J. Pauncefote.—(Received October 7.)

Sir, *Admiralty, October 7*, 1878.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the annexed copy of a telegram from Vice-Admiral Sir G. P. Hornby.

Dated 6th October.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 176.

Vice-Admiral Sir G. Hornby to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.) *Artaki, October 6*, 1878, 4 P.M.

FOLLOWING report from the Senior Officer at Gallipoli, dated 5th October (? received):—

"Consul informs me Russians have evacuated Rodosto four days ago; 2,500 Turkish troops are there to keep order. Enos Feridjik Dedeagatch will be evacuated this evening; 3,000 Turkish troops are leaving here to secure order on the departure of the Russians."

(End of his telegraphic communication.)

I submit the ship might now be withdrawn from the Gulf of Xeros, and it is desirable a vessel should visit Smyrna.

No. 177.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 895.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 6*, 1878.

VICE-CONSUL at Gallipoli reports Turks have occupied Malgara and Keshan. Two battalions have embarked for Enos and Dédéagatch. Tranquillity prevails.

No. 178.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 896.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 6*, 1878.

VICE-CONSUL CALVERT telegraphs:—

"I learn that Petco was released yesterday. Russians say he has been exiled; probably to Rhodope or Macedonia."

No. 180.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 7.)

(Telegraphic.) *Canea, October 7*, 1878.

MAHOMMEDAN peasants are now returning home. The movement is general.

No. 181.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 7, 1878, 2·40 P.M.*

ZARIFI has come to Paris to propose to capitalists there to raise 600,000*l.*, to withdraw debased coin; mortgaging certain Customs revenues, which it appears will be released from hypothecation next August.

His proposals are not well received apparently by capitalists.

No. 182.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 7, 1878, 3 P.M.*

MR. HARRISON will be sent out almost immediately to examine into and report upon the state of Ottoman finances. If proposed Commission is instituted he will be the English member. France has been informed.

No. 183.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 514. Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 7, 1878.*

THE Austrian Chargé d'Affaires spoke to me to-day respecting the refusal of the Sultan to sign the Convention with Austria in regard to the occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

He attributed the action of the Sultan in this matter to Russian advice, and expressed his belief in the "rapprochement" between Turkey and Russia, rumours of which have recently appeared in the public press.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 184.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1209.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 7, 1878.*

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your Excellency's information, copies of two despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Ambassador in Paris relative to the endeavours of M. Zarifi to negotiate a loan in Paris on behalf of the Ottoman Government.

A portion of the information contained therein has already been communicated by telegraph to your Excellency.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 185.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Corbett.

(No. 201.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 7, 1878.*

ON the 18th ultimo I received from M. Gennadius communication of a despatch from M. Delyanni, of which I inclose a copy.

To-day I received from Musurus Bey the reply of the Ottoman Government to the observations contained in the Greek despatch, a copy of which is also transmitted herewith.

I understand that it is the intention of the French Government, which raised at the Congress the question of the cession of Ottoman territory to Greece, to make a communication with respect to these documents to the Powers who signed the Treaty of Berlin. It will not therefore be necessary for me now to discuss the Greek demand for mediation and the questions which arise out of it, as a more suitable occasion for examining these points will offer itself when the communication of the French Government has been submitted to the consideration of the Powers.

It is right, however, in order to prevent misunderstanding hereafter, that in forwarding these documents I should point out that the construction which the Greek Government appear to place on Article XXIV of the Treaty of Berlin is one in which Her Majesty's Government are unable to concur. The Greek Government now contend that the Porte, in signing the Treaty, formally recognized the principle of territorial cession recorded in the XXIVth Article of that Treaty, and are estopped from now raising any objection to this principle, and that the Porte, by the fact of its signature, annulled all the reservations which its Plenipotentiaries had formulated in the presence of the Congress relative to the 13th Protocol.

The language of the Treaty does not appear to Her Majesty's Government to warrant this interpretation. The Treaty must be taken to mean no more than it formally expresses. The Treaty says no more on the subject of the rectification of the Greek frontiers indicated in the 13th Protocol than this—that if the Porte and Greece should fail to agree on the subject, the Six Powers reserve to themselves the right to offer their mediation. In signing the Treaty the Porte did no more as to this Article than attest and record its cognizance of the intention of the Powers. The language of the Article cannot imply that liberty of decision is taken away from the Porte, for it marks out the course which the other Powers may take if that decision should be at variance with the views of Greece.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 186.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1215.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 7, 1878.*

THE Turkish Chargé d'Affaires called upon me to-day, and placed in my hands two telegraphic despatches from the Porte relating to the Austrian occupation of Bosnia. Copies of these documents are inclosed for your Excellency's information. The first, as you will see, is a Circular to the Powers, charging the Austrian troops with having committed great excesses and barbarities towards the Mussulmans of Bosnia, and stating that these proceedings have been represented earnestly, though in a friendly spirit, to Count Andrassy, and praying the Powers to impress the same entreaty upon the Government of Vienna.

The other document, which was communicated confidentially, was a telegram to Alexander Pasha, explaining that the Sultan had been unable to conclude a Convention with Austria, as it would have the appearance of a sanction, on the part of the Khalif, of an effusion of Moslem blood.

This latter document required no answer from me, but I took the opportunity of representing very earnestly to Musurus Bey the extreme impolicy of alienating from Turkey the support of the Hungarian people; and I pointed out to him that if Russia should next year disregard the Treaty of Berlin, and should refuse to evacuate the Turkish provinces, the help of Austria would be of vital importance to the Porte.

With respect to the first document, I said that considerations analogous to those which had induced Her Majesty's Government to decline Prince Bismarck's proposal for

an identic note to the Porte would prevent their concurring in a combined representation to Austria as to facts of which the authenticity was doubtful, and for which the responsibility of the Cabinet of Vienna was still more questionable.

At the same time I stated that I had already instructed Sir H. Elliot to take every legitimate opportunity of urging the humane treatment of the population in Bosnia upon Count Andrassy. But I added that in a case like this, where the humane intentions of the Government were beyond question, and where any excesses that had been committed had been the work of soldiers excited by conflict, it was difficult to make diplomatic representations likely to produce any useful result.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 187.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 530.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, October 7, 1878.*

THE Russian Chargé d'Affaires called upon me to-day, and informed me that he was instructed by his Government to state that they could not accede to the application made by Turkey to the Signatory Powers to be allowed to exchange Vranja for some other cession to Servia which would not involve the transfer of an Albanian population. M. Bartholomei said that Russia insisted on the execution of the Treaty of Berlin, and the Treaty of Berlin only.

I took occasion to mention to him the extravagant language held by Prince Dondoukoff with respect to the Treaty of Berlin in the presence of Lord Donoughmore, as reported in Sir H. Drummond-Wolff's despatch No. 37 of the 24th September.

M. Bartholomei replied that the Prince was a violent man, who had been removed from the army for disputing the orders of his superior officer, and that as he was serving under the Minister of the Interior as a simple Governor, his language could not be held diplomatically to represent in any way the opinions of the Emperor of Russia.

Upon this latter subject I shall have a further communication to make to your Excellency.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 188.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1211.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 7, 1878.*

I HAVE to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government purpose to send to Constantinople, almost immediately, Mr. E. F. Harrison, Comptroller-General at Calcutta, for the purpose of inquiring into the financial condition of the Ottoman Empire, and of furnishing a Report thereon.

As your Excellency will perceive from Lord Lyons' despatch, of which a copy is transmitted herewith,* the French Government have been made acquainted with the views of Her Majesty's Government with regard to the scope of this projected investigation.

Should the Commission, to which the Porte has proposed to invite a British and a French member, be proceeded with, Mr. Harrison will be the Commissioner named by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 189.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 651.) [B.B.]
My Lord, *Foreign Office, October 7, 1878.*

I HAVE been given to understand by the Count de Montebello that the French Government have instructed M. Fournier, the French Ambassador at Constantinople, to urge the Porte to give up Podgoritza to Montenegro, which Sir H. Layard has already been instructed to do by my despatch No. 1130 of the 20th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 190.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 653.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, October 7, 1878.*

THE Count de Montebello called at the Office on the 27th ultimo, and represented that the Roumanians are desirous of having their independence recognized immediately on the retrocession of Bessarabia, without waiting for the passing of the measures for securing religious liberty and equality, as they represent that fresh elections must take place before such legislation can be carried out, and that the elections cannot take place pending a military occupation. Moreover, that they are anxious to carry out their obligations in this respect as early as possible; but they urge that their independent status be recognized on the performance of the first condition, namely, the retrocession of Bessarabia, and that they be trusted to carry out the second, relating to religious equality, &c., as early as circumstances permit.

The Count de Montebello stated that M. Waddington doubted whether it would be prudent to accede to the wishes of the Roumanians in this respect, and was desirous of ascertaining the views of Her Majesty's Government on the subject.

I have to request that your Excellency will inform M. Waddington that Her Majesty's Government share his Excellency's apprehensions, and, as at present advised, do not propose to recognize, formally, Roumanian independence until measures have been taken towards fulfilment of the conditions prescribed by the XLIVth and XLVth Articles of the Treaty of Berlin.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 191.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 831.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October 3, 1878.*

WITH reference to Mr. Plunkett's despatch No. 822 of the 25th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose herewith copy of the note in which Baron Oston Sacken communicated the reply of M. de Giers to the inquiry made of him as to the interpretation to be put upon the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin.

Your Lordship will notice that the Russian Government consider that Article XXIII provides for the submission to the European Commission for Eastern Roumelia of the modifications which may be made in the "Règlement Organique" of Crete.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 191.

Baron Osten Sacken to Mr. Plunkett.

St. Pétersbourg, le $\frac{15}{27}$ Septembre, 1878.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires,

VOICI la réponse que je viens de recevoir de la part de M. de Giers concernant l'interprétation de l'Article XXIII du Traité de Berlin :—

"Nous pensons que d'après l'Article XXIII modifications qui seront apportées au Règlement pour Crète, aussi bien que les Règlements élaborées pour les provinces désignées dans le dit Article, devront être soumis à l'examen de la Commission Européenne instituée pour la Roumélie Orientale."

Votre, &c.

(Signé) OSTEN SACKEN.

No. 192.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 701.)

Paris, October 7, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatches No. 776 of the 2nd instant and No. 778 of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a paper which has been communicated to me by Mr. Charles Mallet.

It gives the details of the scheme for raising the value of the Turkish caïmés, by advancing a sum of money to be employed in buying up the debased metallic currency in the Ottoman Empire.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 192.

Projet relatif au Relèvement de la Valeur des Caïmés.

PAR suite de la dépréciation du cours du caïmé qui a dépassé le prix de 300 piastres à la livre Turque, les revenus de l'Etat qui sont encaissés pour la majeure partie en caïmés au pair, se trouvent en fait réduits à moins d'un tiers de leur montant nominal, ce qui cause un préjudice considérable au Trésor, et par suite à tous ceux qui ont des relations d'intérêt avec lui.

Cette dépréciation est aussi une cause de grandes souffrances pour la population, dont les gains, payés également pour la majeure partie en caïmés, ne suffisent plus aux nécessités de l'existence, ce qui peut faire redouter les troubles les plus graves.

L'Etat, la population, et les créanciers du Trésor sont solidairement intéressés à ce qu'il soit apporté un remède prompt et efficace à l'avilissement des caïmés que la peur exagère encore chaque jour.

Le Gouvernement vient de décider la création de taxes supplémentaires nouvelles sur le tabac, le sel et le timbre devant produire 50,000 livres Turques par mois (480,000 livres Turques par an) destinées à servir au retrait du caïmé.

Divers projets ont été mis en avant pour arriver à opérer immédiatement le retrait des caïmés par une capitalisation de ces revenus nouveaux, dont l'encaissement serait confié à une Commission spéciale, et notamment au moyen de la création de titres nouveaux portant intérêts, qui seraient donnés en échange des caïmés démonétisés.

La plupart de ces projets présentent des difficultés sérieuses. L'avilissement de ce titre nouveau aurait pu se substituer simplement à celui du caïmé et conduire à la catastrophe redoutée. Pour la conjurer il aurait fallu constituer un syndicat qui aurait racheté les titres nouveaux qui se présenteraient sur le marché de Pera à en soutenir le cours. Mais il aurait fallu pouvoir disposer d'une somme relativement considérable, constituant une nouvelle avance au Trésor, dont le remboursement aurait pu se faire sur les revenus des Douanes, mais en les engageant pour au moins trois années.

En outre le retrait du caïmé aurait diminué les moyens d'échange, la monnaie nécessaire au pays, dans des proportions qui auraient pu provoquer une crise.

On a pensé que la banque, les établissements financiers, et les banquiers intéressés à l'amélioration du crédit de la Turquie, pourraient aider le Trésor à guérir la plaie du caïmé par un moyen indirect plus simple, plus facile, et moins risqué, en ce qui les concerne, que les combinaisons précédemment proposées.

A côté des caïmés il y a dans la circulation monétaire en Turquie les monnaies de mauvais aloi (beshliks, métalliques, &c.) dépréciées à un moindre degré que le caïmé, puisqu'elles ont une certaine valeur intrinsèque, mais qui encombrent le marché monétaire et qui font pour ainsi dire concurrence au caïmé, en lui empêchant de prendre dans la circulation monétaire du pays la place qui lui était destinée, et qu'il pourrait remplir.

Le retrait des monnaies de mauvais aloi, en faisant au caïmé cette place qui lui manque, aurait pour effet certain et immédiat le relèvement du cours des caïmés.

L'opération du retrait des monnaies de mauvais aloi, opéré pour compte du Gouvernement par un syndicat de banques et banquiers, qui ferait à cet effet les avances nécessaires, n'empêcherait pas le fonctionnement simultané du retrait des caïmés projeté par les Turcs, au moyen des revenus nouveaux de 50,000 livres Turques par mois, qu'ils destinent à cet objet.

Le retrait des monnaies de mauvais aloi serait opéré pas un syndicat dans les conditions ci-après.

Le syndicat se constituerait avec un capital effectif des 1,200,000 livres Turques, qui formerait une avance au Trésor Impérial à rembourser comme il sera indiqué plus loin.

Au moyen, et dans les limites de cette somme, le syndicat retirerait soit aux caisses publiques, soit sur le marché monétaire, et graduellement, les monnaies destinées à être supprimées. Ces monnaies seraient aussitôt livrées à la fonte, afin d'en retirer en argent et en cuivre le montant de leur valeur intrinsèque. Ce produit serait employé à son tour à de nouveaux achats de métalliques livrés de même à la fonte, et fournissant un nouveau produit affecté au même emploi, et ainsi de suite.

Le Gouvernement assignerait au syndicat, pour servir au remboursement de ses avances, les revenus des Douanes, aussitôt qu'ils seront devenus libres par l'extinction des opérations précédentes de M. Zarifi, garanties par ces revenus, mais le syndicat aurait le droit de se faire rembourser sur les revenus, non-seulement le montant de ses avances employés au retrait des monnaies de mauvais aloi, mais encore, à titre de compensation, un montant d'anciennes créances égal à 30 pour cent des avances en effectif du syndicat.

Bien qu'une partie des revenus des Douanes (Contributions Indirectes) sel, tabac, &c., soit actuellement payée en caïmés et en monnaies de mauvais aloi, M. Zarifi encaisse maintenant sur les revenus qui lui ont été assignés (une partie seulement des Douanes) 150,000 à 160,000 livres Turques or par mois; et on peut compter qu'avec l'amélioration du caïmé, qui résulterait nécessairement de l'exécution du projet actuel, ces revenus monteraient aisément à 200,000 livres Turques or par mois au moins.

N.B.—Les revenus des Douanes actuellement encaissés par M. Zarifi, et qui produisent, dit-il, 150,000 à 165,000 livres Turques bonne monnaie par mois, proviennent d'encaissements opérés.

Un tiers en caïmés perdant plus de 60 pour cent.

Un tiers en métallique perdant environ 20 pour cent.

Un tiers en Medjidiés (argent) perdant 6 pour cent.

M. Zarifi estime que le retrait du métallique peut améliorer la valeur de caïmés et de l'argent dans des proportions suffisantes pour augmenter les revenus des Douanes de 100,000 livres Turques effectives par mois.

Les opérations actuellement en cours pourront absorber les revenus des Douanes jusqu'au mois d'août de l'année prochaine, et il sera sage de ne pas compter sur leur application au remboursement de l'affaire nouvelle avant le mois de Septembre 1879.

Il faudrait donc ajouter aux avances du syndicat leurs intérêts pendant presque un an, à 10 pour cent l'an, par exemple.

Le syndicat aurait donc à se faire rembourser les sommes suivantes :—

	£ T.
Avance effectif [illegible]	1,200,000
Intérêts [illegible]	[illegible]
Compensation, 30 pour cent	360,000
Total	1,680,000

On estime l'ensemble des beschliks et métalliques circulant en Turquie une valeur effective, aux cours actuels, de 2,500,000 livres Turques environ.

La valeur intrinsèque des métaux à retirer à la fonte est estimée à 50 pour cent environ du prix de ces monnaies au cours.

La valeur en métal à retirer de la fonte de l'ensemble des monnaies peut donc s'évaluer à 1,250,000 livres Turques. Le syndicat faisant au Gouvernement avance de 1,200,000 livres Turque, on aurait une valeur réelle de 2,450,000 livres Turques, parfaitement suffisante pour effectuer par des opérations successives, graduelles, le retrait de la totalité des cesehlicks et métalliques.

Les financiers les plus initiés dans la connaissance du pays, de ses usages, et de sa situation paraissent unanimes à affirmer sans aucune hésitation que le retrait du métallique aurait pour effet certain de relever la valeur du caimé qui serait devenu absolument nécessaire comme moyen de circulation, et qu'en très-peu de mois cette amélioration atteindrait des proportions assez importantes pour augmenter, par le fait même, de moitié le rendement effectif des revenus publics encaissés en caimés.

Le syndicat chargé de l'opération aurait à se faire rembourser, sur les revenus des Douanes qui lui seraient assignés, y compris les compensations, une somme totale de 1,680,000 livres Turques.

On propose que ce remboursement soit opéré par un prélèvement mensuel de 100,000 livres Turques sur les revenus des Douanes, de façon à n'en pas absorber la totalité, pour que le Gouvernement trouve aussi dans les Douanes quelques ressources indispensables à son existence.

Par ce moyen le remboursement se ferait dans une période de seize à dix-sept mois, à partir de Septembre 1879.

Il faut observer toutefois que l'opération projetée devant avoir pour effet d'augmenter le rendement réel des Douanes, pourrait accélérer le remboursement des avances auxquelles les Douanes sont actuellement affectées. Ce qui pourrait permettre de commencer quelques mois plus tôt le remboursement de l'avance projetée.

En outre, si, comme le pense M. Zarifi, les revenus des Douanes s'élevaient par l'effet de la mesure proposée à 200,000 ou 250,000 livres Turques par mois, on pourrait faire assigner au remboursement une somme supérieure à 100,000 livres Turques par mois.

Ceux qui entreraient dans le syndicat projeté trouveraient leur principal avantage dans la faculté de compensation d'anciennes créances pour 30 pour cent du montant de leurs avances; mais il est indispensable que cet avantage devienne sérieux pour eux par le fait d'une sécurité absolue du remboursement au moyen des revenus assignés.

On ne peut trouver cette sécurité que dans un contrôle efficace, exercé sur obligations qui seraient contractées par le Gouvernement Ottoman; et ce contrôle ne peut s'exercer qu'en vertu d'un acte prenant le caractère d'un engagement diplomatique. On propose donc que le Gouvernement Ottoman s'adresse au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique pour lui demander de vouloir bien consentir à désigner un délégué qui prendrait le caractère d'Agent du Gouvernement Britannique ayant pour mission de contrôler et surveiller l'exécution des engagements du Gouvernement Ottoman en ce qui concerne l'opération projetée.

L'action de l'Angleterre dans cette mesure et sous cette forme n'engagerait pas sa responsabilité matérielle et pécuniaire, et elle se justifierait amplement en raison du Traité du 4 Juin et par le but d'intérêt général qu'il s'agit d'atteindre.

Il est bien évident en effet que la restauration de la circulation monétaire en Turquie est une des mesures essentielles qui doivent se trouver au point de départ de toutes les réformes qui pourront être tentées aussi bien dans l'ordre administratif que dans l'ordre financier.

No. 193.

Sir L. Mallet to Sir J. Pauncefote.—(Received October 8.)

India Office, October 7, 1878.

Sir,

IN reply to Sir Julian Pauncefote's letter of the 28th ultimo, I am directed to state, for the information of the Marquis of Salisbury, that the Secretary of State for India in Council is prepared to place the services of Mr. E. F. Harrison, of the Bengal Civil Service, at the disposal of the Foreign Office during the term of his present furlough on the allowances which he now receives, and also for a period not exceeding

one year from the date of its expiration, he retaining a lien on his present appointment in India, on the understanding that from that date no charge will be incurred by Indian revenues.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LOUIS MALLET.

No. 194.

Sir H. Drummond-Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 26. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October 7, 1878.*

COMMISSION met to-day. Question of bank satisfactorily settled. French Commissioner having mooted at last meeting control by Commission of existing administration, and Russian having rejected it, I read a paper supporting French view, which I based on Treaty and on the impossibility of administering finances without some general control over Government. I considered that province being already erected, and Article XIX recognizing the presence of the Porte, that presence necessarily implied its sovereign power. I therefore urged appointment of Turkish Governor-General and of officers of militia and gendarmerie to help us in our labours at Philippopolis. I had previously shown my paper to French, Austrian, and Italian Commissioners, the two first of whom approved its contents. Russians declared these questions not in our competence; their administration of Eastern Roumelia was based on engagements taken between Russia and Turkey in Treaty of San Stefano. Turks announced intention of appointing Governor-General and officers of militia.

Russians intimated that Russia would not consent to appointment of Governor-General, which must receive assent of Powers. I declined to admit subordination of Treaty of Berlin to that of San Stefano. Turkish, French, and Austrian Commissioners, as well as myself, made our reservations. So did German. Italian was silent.

Later, Prince Tseretelew gave notice for next sitting to ask Turks for information necessary to give an opinion on "règlements" specified in Article XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin. Russians are now pressing us to go to Philippopolis. If we do so under these circumstances it will practically be recognizing a state of things existing under the Treaty of San Stefano; and the non-appointment of Governor and officers of the militia and gendarmerie will prevent organization of the country in anticipation of evacuation.

My belief is that a firm attitude will do much if not everything.

French and Austrian seem firm: [Italian?] friendly, but wavering: German dead against us.

French Commissioner has just shown me his telegram, strongly supporting my view.

Turks declare they do not recognize stipulations of Article XXVI of Treaty of San Stefano, nor Roumelia as being subjected to provisions affecting Bulgaria then created.

Next meeting on Saturday. I should be glad to have your views by then, and also to learn if you have communicated with other Cabinets.

No. 195.

Sir H. Drummond-Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 27.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October 7, 1878.*

THE words used by Schepeloff were that the administration in Eastern Roumelia depended on an anterior Treaty which concerned only Russia and Turkey. On being challenged he did not deny that he alluded to the Treaty of San Stefano.

Prince Tseretelow told Contouly privately during discussion that he was "naïf" to think any logic would persuade Russia. She was *beati possidentes*, and nothing would make her give up what she wanted to hold but a war in which she was beaten.

No. 196.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 246.)
(Telegraphic.)

Vienna, October 8, 1878.

GENERAL IGNATIEFF, who arrived here two days ago with his family, continues his journey to Nice to-day without having paid any visits or seen the Emperor or Count Andrassy.

No. 197.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 247.)
(Telegraphic.)

Vienna, October 8, 1878.

CARATHEODORI PASHA has communicated to Count Andrassy telegrams from the Porte accusing the Austrian army of having exercised in Bosnia cruelties which pass all description; of having delivered over towns to pillage; of wholesale massacres of women and children; and of having thrown sick and wounded Turks out of windows of hospitals.

In face of such proceedings the Sultan could not conclude a Convention with Austria even if it recognized his authority and fixed a term for the occupation.

In spite of this violent [?] indictment the Porte expresses a hope that the relations of the two countries may be friendly.

Caratheodori Pasha leaves to-morrow for Constantinople.

No. 198.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 8.)

(Telegraphic.)

Belgrade, October 8, 1878.

MAJOR WILSON requests me to telegraph to your Lordship as follows:—

"Turkish Commissioner not yet arrived. Can the consent of the Powers be obtained to demarcation of Servian-Bulgarian boundary by the Servian Commission, to enable me to act with my colleagues when Turkish Commissioner arrives, if Turkish frontier, on account of disturbances, should be impracticable?"

No. 199.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 8.)

(Telegraphic.)

Canea, October 8, 1878.

THE Cretan difficulty seems likely to be settled soon.

No. 200.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, October 8, 1878.

CAPTAIN TROTTER, lately additional Military Attaché at Constantinople, leaves London next Thursday, to take temporary charge of the Consulate at Erzeroum. He will report himself to your Excellency on his arrival at Constantinople.

Take steps to obtain his recognition by proper authorities.

No. 201.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 515.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, October 8, 1878.

THE Turkish Chargé d'Affaires presented me with a circular note attributing great excesses to the Austrian troops, and calling upon the Powers to make representations to the Government of Vienna upon the subject. I declined, on behalf of Her Majesty's Government, to make any such representation. I pointed out to Musurus Bey that the facts which he alleged rested on no adequate testimony, and that, even so far as they were accurate, there was no ground for believing that the Government of Vienna, whose humanity was well known, were responsible for, or even cognizant of, them.

At the same time, I told him that your Excellency had instructions, which you were always forward to execute, enjoining you to take every suitable opportunity of urging Count Andrassy to do all that lay in his power to mitigate the sufferings which were certain, in some degree, to accompany the progress of military operations, and which it might be feared had been exasperated by the unexpected resistance offered to the Austrian troops.

At the same time, Musurus Bey informed me of the Sultan's refusal to accept a Convention with Austria. I told him that I deeply regretted this resolution; and I took the opportunity of representing very earnestly to Musurus Bey the extreme impolicy of alienating from Turkey the support of the Hungarian people, and I pointed out to him that, if Russia should next year disregard the Treaty of Berlin, and should refuse to evacuate the Turkish provinces, the help of Austria would be of vital importance to the Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 202.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 516.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, October 8, 1878.

YOUR Excellency has referred in your despatch No. 704 of the 2nd instant to the report that Her Majesty's Government were disposed to favour the idea of substituting the cession of Crete to Greece for the rectification of frontiers contemplated in the Treaty of Berlin. I have to inform your Excellency that there is no truth in this report, which has, as you are aware, been already contradicted through Count Deym. It is not the case that Her Majesty's Government have ever expressed any approval of such an idea.

I have some reason to believe that a notion that a compromise of the sort might be arranged did at one time find favour at the Porte, but I have never heard that it would be admitted at Athens as forming a satisfactory solution of the claims of Greece. It has never been submitted to Her Majesty's Government in such a shape as to call for any expression of opinion on their part.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 203.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 517.) [B.B.]
Sir,

Foreign Office, October 8, 1878.

I HAVE to acquaint your Excellency that Count Deym, by order of his Government, has inquired whether the British Commissioner of Delimitation for Servia is authorized to take part in the delimitation of the Servo-Bulgarian frontier, as a question has been raised on the point.

Count Deym was informed, in reply, that the delimitation of the entire frontier of Bulgaria was intrusted by the Treaty to the European Commission, and that no part of

this duty could be transferred to the Servian Commission without the formal assent of the Powers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 204.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1229.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 8, 1878.*

I INCLOSE, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a despatch from the Porte to Musurus Bey, which he left with me yesterday, in regard to the threatening attitude of the Greek Government, and the alleged intrigues of its agents in the Turkish border provinces.

Musurus Bey inquired, with reference to the statement that certain Powers had promised to protect the coasts and ports of Greece from any attack by the Ottoman fleet, whether Her Majesty's Government had given any such promise, or were aware of its having been given by any other Powers. I said that we were unpledged upon this point, but that I could give him no information with respect to other Powers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 205.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Sir J. Paunceforte.—(Received October 9.)

Sir, *Admiralty, October 8, 1878.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir G. Phipps Hornby, dated the 24th ultimo, respecting the movements of the squadron in the Sea of Marmora, and I am to inform you that if the squadron remains after October in the Sea of Marmora, my Lords are of opinion it is desirable that the Commander-in-chief's recommendation that Ismid should be the winter quarters be approved.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL

Inclosure in No. 205.

Vice-Admiral Hornby to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir, *"Alexandra," at Prince's Islands, September 24, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that Her Majesty's Ambassador acquaints me that in consequence of the Russian army having retired from San Stefano the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs has instructed his Excellency to request me to withdraw the squadron now at Prince's Islands to a greater distance from Constantinople, and as the Gulf of Ismid is said not to be free from fevers until the end of October the anchorage I have selected is that at Artaki, for which place I sail on Saturday next, the 28th instant. But I have to point out to their Lordships that that bay, as well as those of Gallipoli and Lampsaca are very open and undesirable for winter anchorages.

2. From the slowness of the Russian retreat, and the large accumulation of provisions they are reported to have made at Adrianople, it does not seem likely that they will have retired within the boundaries of Eastern Roumelia before winter sets in, and I understand that until they do so, it is not the intention of Her Majesty's Government to withdraw this squadron from the Sea of Marmora; I submit, therefore, that in case it should be detained beyond the end of October, it should take up its winter quarters at Ismid as the most sheltered place not in the immediate vicinity of Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. PHIPPS HORNBY.

No. 206.

Note Verbale communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by M. de Bartholomei, October 9.

UN télégramme du Sénateur de Giers en date de Livadia, le 26 Septembre / 8 Octobre, porte les renseignements suivants:—

"Le Commandant-en-chef de notre armée nous signale les graves désordres qui éclatent dans les localités évacuées par nos troupes; des Chrétiens ont été massacrés a Silivria. Voyant l'autorité remise entre les mains de ceux-là mêmes qui ont commis tant d'atrocités avant notre venue, les populations Chrétiennes au désespoir fuient de tout côté et rejoignent en masse nos troupes. En vue de cette déplorable situation, le Général Todleben a fait expressément demander à la Porte d'infliger de sévères punitions aux fauteurs de ces désordres et de prendre les mesures propres à diminuer la panique que leurs actes de violence ont fait naître. Le Commandant-en-chef a dû en même temps suspendre la retraite de notre armée et prendre les dispositions militaires que réclame l'état alarmant du pays. Mais pour y mettre un terme, pour rétablir l'ordre et la sécurité dans les contrées que nous devons abandonner, il est de toute nécessité d'obtenir de la part de la Porte le concours des mesures les plus pressantes et les plus énergiques, qui seules peuvent arrêter le développement d'un état de choses qui nous entraînerait fatalement aux plus grandes complications. Notre Ambassadeur à Constantinople n'a pas manqué de faire des démarches dans ce sens; et d'ordre de l'Empereur, je vous prie d'en informer le Gouvernement auprès duquel vous vous trouvez accrédité, en l'engageant à s'associer à nos démarches auprès de la Porte, dans le but de rendre possible l'exécution du Traité de Berlin et d'assurer aux stipulations de cet acte solennel tout le respect qui leur est dû."

No. 207.

Note Verbale communicated by M. de Bartholomei, October 9.

UN télégramme du Sénateur de Giers, en date de Livadia, le 27 Septembre / 9 Octobre, contient ce qui suit:—

"Afin de donner plus d'unité à la direction des Commissions de Délimitation et éviter perte de tems, nous croyons nécessaire que les Délégués relèvent des Ambassadeurs respectifs à Constantinople, desquels ils recevraient leurs instructions. Veuillez en faire la proposition au Gouvernement près duquel vous vous trouvez accrédité et informez-nous du résultat par télégraphe."

No. 208.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 9.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, October 7, 1878.*

PORTE has named officers on the Staff already here as Commissioners on the Montenegrin boundary, but they have declined their appointment on the ground that under existing circumstances they would fail in their Mission.

The Turkish prisoners in Montenegro have been released.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 209.

Sir H. Drummond-Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 9.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 8, 1878.*

ENGLISH gentleman I have already mentioned has seen Prince Tseretelew, who explains his colleague's language by saying that [?] Province was instituted under the San Stefano Treaty, not that it is now sanctioned by that Act.

My informant is of opinion that the Russians have telegraphed for instructions, and that some compromise may be arrived at.

Prince Tseretelew says England is playing a game of brag: this convinces me the more that firmness is the only policy.

No. 210.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 9.)

(No. 899.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 8, 1878.*

VICE-CONSUL at Philippopolis telegraphs the following, dated yesterday:—

"Turks of towns continue to be daily requisitioned for labour on public works regardless of age or of social condition, and without payment. Male Turks are also being brought in from the villages for *corvée*, leaving their families destitute and unprotected.

"I learn that no one has been allowed access to Sheban and Arif Agas during the last three days."

No. 211.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 9.)

(No. 900.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 8, 1878.*

SAFVET PASHA assures me that the Porte will lose no time in effecting the surrender of Podgoritza and Spuz, and that he expects no serious difficulty in the matter, as, through the efforts of Civil Governor of Colatchin, that district, with three blockhouses, has already been given up, notwithstanding preparations made by its Albanian population for a most determined resistance.

No. 212.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 9.)

(No. 901.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 8, 1878.*

FOLLOWING has been received from Vice-Consul at Philippopolis, dated the 7th October:—

"Refugees, mostly Bulgarian, continue to arrive daily from the districts evacuated by the Russians. They say Russians advise them officially to stay in their homes, but privately urge them to fly. They are being installed in Turkish houses, and in many cases the Turkish inmates are being turned out to make room for the Christian refugees."

No. 213.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 9.)

(No. 904.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 9, 1878.*

COUNCIL of Ministers has decided in favour of Rustem Pasha as Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia, but Grand Vizier wishes to have your Lordship's opinion as to whether the appointment can be made without the previous assent of the Powers, according to Article XVII of the Treaty of Berlin.

No. 214.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 9.)

(No. 905.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 9, 1878.*

RUSSIAN Ambassador has represented to Grand Vizier that the Christian population of the districts evacuated by the Russians are leaving in great numbers, so as to impede retreat of the Russian army; and has requested that Turkish functionary of high rank should be sent at once to reassure Christians and to induce them to remain. Grand Vizier answered, authority of the Porte could not be re-established

until Adrianople was restored; upon which the Russian Ambassador stated that it was provided by the Treaty of San Stefano that Russia was not to evacuate Turkish territories until three months after signature of definite Treaty of Peace, and, consequently, until Treaty now proposed by Russia to the Porte had been accepted and signed, there could be no question of the evacuation of Adrianople. Safvet Pasha is very anxious that your Lordship's attention should be called to this declaration.

Grand Vizier trusts that Her Majesty's Government will not credit statements made in a Russian Circular which he understands has been addressed to Powers as to massacres and outrages on Christians after withdrawal of Russian troops. His Highness declares that they are made with the object of justifying Russian occupation, and that Russian Ambassador himself admitted to him that Christians were emigrating to Bulgaria and Roumelia to be under Christian Government.

No. 215.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 9.)

(No. 906.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 9, 1878.*

CARATHEODORY PASHA was authorized the day before yesterday to inform Count Andrassy that, after what had taken place in Bosnia, Porte could not agree to the Convention, but was content to take its stand on the Declaration signed at Berlin on the 13th July by the Austrian Plenipotentiaries, and that it earnestly desired that no interruption whatever should take place in the friendly and intimate relations existing between the two countries.

According to a telegram sent to the Grand Vizier, Count Andrassy received this communication in a friendly spirit, and his Highness hopes that the question may be now considered as satisfactorily settled, as Count Andrassy has agreed that the Austrian army shall not advance for the present on Novi-Bazar.

No. 216.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 9, 1878, 5 P.M.*

MR. GOULD telegraphs the following:—

"Major Wilson requests me to telegraph to your Lordship as follows:—

"'Turkish Commissioner not yet arrived. Can the consent of the Powers be obtained to demarcation of Servian-Bulgarian boundary by the Servian Commission, to enable me to act with my colleagues when Turkish Commissioner arrives, if Turkish frontier, on account of disturbances, should be impracticable?'

"I shall be glad to learn what would be the views of the Austrian Government as to proposed demarcation of Servian-Bulgarian boundary by Servian Commission."

No. 217.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 9, 1878, 5·30 P.M.*

AS to railway concessions, I do not think it of much importance whether the concession to make a railway falls into French or English hands, provided the railway is made; but pray bear in mind my instruction to try and get inserted into every concession a provision that it is void if the railway is not made within five years.

No. 218.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 9, 1878.*

PENDING final organization of Eastern Roumelia, what is the opinion of the Government to which you are accredited with respect to the administration of Eastern Roumelia during intermediate period?

Her Majesty's Government think it should either be with the Porte or the Commission.

No. 219.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 531.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, October 9, 1878.*

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith copy of a despatch from Sir H. Drummond-Wolff, in the inclosure to which is reported a statement which appears to have been made by General Skobeleff in the course of conversation, to the effect that the Russian Government intended to maintain an army of 45,000 men to the south of the Balkans during the winter, in addition to a force of over 100,000 men in the Principality of Bulgaria.

I should wish your Excellency to inform M. de Giers unofficially that a report has reached Her Majesty's Government of statements of this kind having been made by General Skobeleff in the presence of Her Majesty's Assistant Commissioner, and to remind his Excellency that by Article XXII of the Treaty of Berlin the Russian force of occupation in Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia is limited to 50,000 men.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 220.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 525.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 9, 1878.*

I LEARN from Mr. Gould that Major Wilson wishes for instructions as to whether, if it should be found impossible on the arrival of his Turkish colleague to proceed with the work of demarcation in the disturbed Turkish frontier, it might be practicable for the Servian Commission to obtain the assent of the Powers to proceed with the work of the demarcation of the new boundary between Servia and Bulgaria.

I have to-day requested you by telegraph to ascertain the view entertained of this suggestion by the Austro-Hungarian Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 221.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1223.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 9, 1878.*

IT is not of material importance whether the concession for a railway falls into French or English hands, provided the railway is actually made and properly worked. But you should strongly recommend to the Porte the insertion in every concession that may be granted of a provision to the effect that if, at the end of a period of five years, the line is not made either in whole or in such part as may be deemed practicable in view of the difficulties to be encountered, the concession shall be void. Otherwise there is reason for fearing that concessions will be used, not to facilitate the making of

* Similar telegrams were sent to Mr. Macdonell, Mr. Dering, and Sir H. Elliot.

railways by those who receive them, but to hinder such works being undertaken by other persons.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 222.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond-Wolff.

(No. 44.) [B.B.]

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 9, 1878.*

I HAVE receive your despatch No. 36 of the 24th instant, forwarding copies of despatches from Lord Donoughmore.

I have read Lord Donoughmore's reports with much interest, and should wish you to communicate to him my approval of his proceedings.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 223.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond-Wolff.

(No. 45.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 9, 1878.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 38 of the 24th ultimo, in which are enumerated the points connected with the future proceedings of the Commission for Eastern Roumelia, regarding which you have arrived at an understanding with your Austrian and French colleagues, and I have to state to you that your report of your proceedings is approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 224.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond-Wolff.

(No. 46.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 9, 1878.*

I HAVE to state to you that I entirely approve the replies returned by you, as reported in your despatch No. 35 of the 23rd ultimo, to a person who has appealed to you for advice as to the course to be pursued by the Rhodope insurgents.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 225.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.**

(No. 657.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, October 9, 1878.*

I HAVE to request your Excellency to ascertain what is the opinion of the Government to which you are accredited with respect to the administration of Eastern Roumelia during the intermediate period which will occur before the arrangements for the organization of that province are finally completed.

Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that the duties of administration during this period may, in conformity with the Treaty, be intrusted either to the Porte or to the Commission; but that the right of occupation conferred by the Treaty upon Russia does not carry with it a right to administer.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

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* Similar despatches were addressed to Mr. Macdonell, Mr. Dering, and Sir H. Elliot.

No. 226.

Sir J. Pauncefote to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 9, 1878.*

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant, and I am to state to you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that his Lordship concurs with Vice-Admiral Sir G. Phipps Hornby in thinking that there is no further necessity that a British ship of war should be stationed in the Gulf of Xeros.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 227.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 10.)

(No. 127. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, September 25, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch to your Lordship No. 117 of the 6th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a letter which Mr. Cole, the American missionary at Erzeroum, addresses to his Ambassador at Constantinople, and which he sent to me, under flying seal, for the information of Sir Austen Layard.

When I received this morning the letter in question I telegraphed as follows to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople:—

"Cole writes, on 14th, that great panic prevailed among Christians in and round Erzeroum, in consequence of threats and cases of assault by Mussulmans. On 15th excitement had partly subsided. Armenians emigrated in great numbers."

I have begged Mr. Cole, in answer to his former communication, to telegraph to me should any serious events take place in Armenia. My letter left by our courier, who must have arrived at Erzeroum shortly after the date of Mr. Cole's letter. As I have not heard from him since, I must suppose that, unless his telegrams to me are refused, there is no occurrence worth reporting.

It is remarkable that the cases of assault and the outrage mentioned by Mr. Cole should have taken place while the Russians were still at Erzeroum. Demonstrations on a large scale are not in the character of the Armenians; their having gathered in thousands, crying out "Protect us or kill us," while, to avoid death, they had only to cross the frontier; their having refused to listen to their Bishop, whom they threatened to the extent of his requiring a strong guard at his door; their running from the Russian authorities to the French Consul, and, finally, to the single American missionary who is at Erzeroum for protection, savours of a got-up demonstration, having for object to offer a plausible pretext for the Russians not to evacuate completely Armenia.

It is rumoured here since three days that the Russians who departed from Erzeroum on the 10th were compelled soon after to send back some battalions to protect the Christians, but the news requires confirmation.

The danger to which the Christians are exposed may be more or less exaggerated; but it exists, and the populations require protection.

It is, therefore, to be hoped that the measures which Koord Ismaïl Pasha is adopting will secure tranquillity, and leave to the Russians no pretext for a longer occupation of Armenia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure in No. 227.

The Rev. R. M. Cole to Mr. Maynard.

My dear Sir, *Erzeroum, September 14, 1878.*

I AM waiting with anxiety for a reply to my letter to your and the English Ambassador's Excellencies fourteen days since.

All I anticipated in that letter, and a hundred-fold more, is already inaugurated.

Not only the provinces I referred to, but others, and even this plain and city, are up in arms.

Yesterday was such a day as we shall not soon forget. The Turks have been most barefaced in their threats towards Christians for some time. For some days they have begun here and there, inside of the city and out, to put into execution their threats. Several men were deliberately knocked down in the open market. Three were attacked outside of the city, one of them one of my own employés, and he might soon have been killed but for the interference of others.

This was what we were seeing take place right here in this city, with the Russian guard in full force; and, added to this, and in keeping with their terrible threats, the night before last several Turks entered the house of a poor inoffensive man, bound him and his family (*sic*), and outraged the latter in a most shameful manner, so that she now lies at the point of death. The house was also plundered of what they had.

This last has been enough to touch the match to such combustible substance as we have in the mass of the people this way, be they Christians or Mahommedans; hence we had such a scene enacted yesterday in this place as we shall not soon forget.

Christians went in a tumultuous crowd of thousands to the Governor-General first of all, after which they went to the Mayor and French Consul. Not getting very good satisfaction in any of those places, they became boisterous, crying out, "Protect us or kill us," &c.

Finally the Mayor issued an order for the police to scatter the crowd, which they did with some difficulty, arresting a few of the most boisterous.

But they were not to be thus silenced. They now gather in still greater crowds in the large Armenian cemetery, and become all the more vociferous. The Armenian Church ecclesiastics gathered them into their large church (and the most of them were Armenians), and attempted to make an address, persuading them to be patient and turn to their various employments as loyal subjects of the Government. At this the crowd called out, "We cannot receive such talk!" and the meeting broke up in great confusion.

Their Bishop also became so intimidated, as it is thought from his own people, since they dealt out threats at him from his seeming inactivity in the matter, that he had a strong Russian guard stationed at his door immediately.

Upon this not a few called out, "Let us turn to the Americans, who saved us from starvation last winter." They came to us, though not in such a crowd, and in a much more honourable way. Yesterday and to-day have been largely given to trying to encourage and pacify the poor bewildered terrified ones that have been crowding upon us in larger or smaller groups. I learned they had the plan of coming by the thousand in front of our door, but I begged their chief men to put a stop to such a course if they had respect for my honour; that what I could do I should do all the more cheerfully if they would refrain from such demonstrations. Thanks to them that they have heeded our request (and not a few of them have been to our doors for their bread the past winter, and we have a good influence over them), and our house has not been put in the least danger as yet, nor are we annoyed further than interrupted, so that I find it difficult, with so many coming and going, to lay the whole matter before you in a connected careful manner.

I have this day sent to your Excellency a very long telegram – some 150 words—through Russia and in the Russian language, stating at the beginning that "what I feared in the letter which I sent (that is the copy of letter to Mr. Layard which I sent you, suggesting emigration, great mixtures, anarchy, &c.) to your Excellency had already begun." From this I went on to describe briefly the state of things with us in this city, as I have done now with pen.

Though I suggested danger to us as well as to this city in the telegram, still I would not have your Excellency think that, as yet, we have reason to fear for our personal safety unless the condition of the town should become most desperate, which we cannot anticipate, though matters yesterday looked most formidable indeed. We and our flag are held in high repute, and all nationalities are on friendly terms with us as far as we can see. Though other ecclesiastics have placed guards at their doors, we feel no need of any at ours, and trust our residence will be kept in safety unless a perfect frenzy should possess the whole town, in which case ours might have to succumb last of all. The people have confidence and respect for us, though they seem to look upon their own highest dignitaries with great distrust.

I shall wait with great anxiety a speedy reply to the telegram, as the people crowd upon us for some encouraging news.

As I wrote in the letter to Mr. Layard, the province of Alashgerd has already been

given over to the Koords, and its poor Christians have fled towards Russia. The plain east of us is bordering on such a state, as also the villages of this plain.

I might fill pages more in black rehearsals of what is going on in other regions which have also had great weight in urging me on to present the matter before you. But it would only weary you, and I forbear.

Am happy to report, however, that Ismail Pasha has paid good heed to telegrams I sent him as to Gegho and Khanous regions, and some efforts at reforms are being made.

Yours very truly,
(Signed) R. M. COLE.

P. S.—The telegram was finally sent in French, not in Russian.

R. M. C.

P.S.—*September 15th.*—The letter which I inclose I wrote very hastily, hoping it would go by courier, but in the rush of people upon us, and upon the agent who attends to dispatch the courier, it failed to be sent. Just at this moment an opportunity to send it presents itself, and I hastily send it away.

Am happy to report more quiet. Yesterday, by beatings in some cases, and threats of fines, the shops were opened.

The people are waiting anxiously to see what replies will come to the telegrams sent by different ones. We do hope something will be accomplished so that this Armenian race may not be wholly lost to these parts.

They are emigrating in great numbers every day.

I can but feel that the English Government is gravely at fault in not dispatching some representative of their own to these parts to assure these Christians in personal presence.

R. M. C.

No. 228.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 10.)

(No. 128. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, September 28, 1878.*

THE Armenians of the village of Khodoortchoor, in the district of Ispir, sent a special messenger, which messenger arrived here yesterday, to convey the news that on the 15th instant, at noon, a body of Mussulmans, 65 men strong, set fire to their village, consisting of 800 houses, 29 of which, with their premises (150 buildings altogether), and all they contained, were burnt down.

This outrage, which is unconnected with the evacuation of the Russian troops from Armenia, is a consequence of the robbery reported in my despatch to your Lordship No. 57 of the 8th May last, as having taken place in the village of Mokhirgud.

The parties accused of that robbery have been arrested, and are in prison since some months.

Their relatives asked the Armenians of Khodoortchoor, of which Mokhirgud is a dependency, to obtain the release of the prisoners, and, on their refusal to do so, threatened to take revenge, which they did as reported above, but, no doubt, also with the object to carry away fresh spoils.

However, the house of the priest is the only one which they plundered.

Hussein Effendi of Hanusoon, who is intrusted by authority of the Government with the protection of the village, for which he receives from the inhabitants 10*l.* a month, together with food for himself, and the seven or eight men forming his gendarmerie, opposed the attacking parties, although at the time there were only four of his followers with him.

In the fight which ensued one of his men, the priest, and three of the brigands were wounded, and the sister-in-law of the priest killed.

I have just seen Hussein Effendi and the messenger from Khodoortchoor, who inform me that the inhabitants of that village have addressed to me a petition which is being translated into French by their order.

In the meantime, as they tell me that they are afraid that the brigands, fifteen of whom they know by name, may renew the attack, I consider it important to acquaint your Lordship with the occurrence even before the petition in question, which contains many details, is handed to me.

I shall speak to-morrow to Yussuf Pasha on the subject, although Ispir is under the jurisdiction of Erzeroum.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 229.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 10.)

(No. 129. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, September 28, 1878.*

DISORDERS in this quarter are not limited to outrages against Christians, the Mussulmans themselves are also the victims of murderous assaults on the part of some ruffians of their co-religionists.

I am just informed that three days ago, while a Mussulman was conveyed to his grave, at Yoomrah, a gang of nine Turks, armed to the teeth, having met the funeral, one of them, without the least provocation, pulled his cutlass and murdered the officiating Imam. The assistants, upwards of 100 in number, being unarmed, the murderer and his followers made good their escape.

The following night another gang of five men entered the house of a Mussulman, living also at Yoomrah, and wounded him so severely that his life is despaired of. The motive of this aggression is not yet known.

As an example of the little respect that the Mussulmans show now, even to their own authorities, I shall mention that in the course of this week the inhabitants of a village of Akshe Abad, not being satisfied with their Mudir (Lieutenant-Governor), embarked him on board a boat and sent him back to Trebizond.

These facts, and that reported in my despatch No. 128 of this day, speak enough by themselves to render useless all comments on my part with respect to the unruly condition of this part of Anatolia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 230.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 10.)

(No. 98. Political.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, September 28, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Ottoman corvette "Mukaddem Khair," in consequence of orders from Constantinople, left Suda Bay on the 26th instant for Syra, where she took on board his Highness Midhat Pasha, who landed here this morning under a salute of nineteen guns. His Highness was well received by the entire population.

As soon as his Highness arrived I sent your Lordship the following telegram:—

"*September 28.*—Midhat Pasha arrived here this morning from Syra in a Turkish corvette."

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 231.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 16.)

(No. 99. Political.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, October 1, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, copies of four despatches which I have written to his Excellency the Ambassador at the Porte, viz.:—

1. The falling through of the arrangements made with the Christians for the return of the Mussulman peasantry to their homes.

2. Reporting the proceedings at the sittings of the Christian Delegates.

3. The unsatisfactory progress of the deliberations, and the resolution come to that the Delegates should send in a list of their demands for the consideration of the Commissioner, with the reasons why I consider it very important for Costaki Pasha to be at once confirmed as Governor-General of Crete for a term of five years; and—

4. Reporting a renewal of the agreement to be entered into with a view to the repatriation of the Mussulmans.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 1 in No. 231.

Consul Sandwith to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Canea, Crete, September 27, 1878.*

IN my despatch of the 20th instant I had the honour of relating to your Excellency the steps that had been taken for the purpose of bringing about an agreement between the insurgents and the Government for the return of the Mussulman peasantry to their homes. When I wrote there seemed a fair prospect of this important object being achieved, for a real desire was evinced on the part of the Christians to welcome the fugitives back again, and the latter, who are best acquainted with the feelings of their late neighbours towards them, were quite prepared to trust themselves in their power. But the Mussulman Beys inhabiting the town, whose bigotry and intolerance are among the chief causes of the discontent of the Christians, inasmuch as it is they who bring their evil influence to bear upon the administration, lost no time in sowing the seeds of suspicion and distrust. One leading Mussulman landlord, who had been active in favouring the movement, was publicly insulted in the market-place, and asked if he intended himself and his farm-labourers to become the rayahs of Hadji Michali and other Christian Chiefs. Another large landowner complained to me of the efforts of the same fanatical class to prevent the peasantry from returning.

That night I sought an interview with Ghazi Mukhtár Pasha for the express purpose of urging on his Excellency the importance of bringing all the power of the Government to bear on the Mussulman peasantry while the impulse to return home was still upon them, or the opportunity might be lost for ever. The Commissioner appeared to me less impressed with the importance of carrying the movement through than when the subject was first broached a few days before, and I could not but fear that he had lent a half-willing ear to the chief military and naval officers who are openly opposed to the movement, as a Convention, in their eyes degrading, had been drawn up between the Government and the insurgent leaders.

I told his Excellency that Her Majesty's Government attached the greatest possible importance to peace being restored to the island without further bloodshed, and that if the present opportunity of quietly repatriating the refugees was neglected, another was not likely to present itself. When, next day, the representatives of the peasantry met at the Vali's house to come to a final decision on the subject, they began to carp at the terms which previously had looked so fair, and the project fell through.

I have a very strong impression that had the Commissioner sternly rebuked the fanatical spirit which had shown itself, and cordially co-operated with the Vali, the Mussulman peasantry would at the present moment be celebrating Bairam at their homes.

Having no hopes that an amicable arrangement would be come to, I had the honour this morning to telegraph thus to your Excellency: "By reason of the intrigues of Mussulmans of this town, the Mussulman peasantry have not returned to their homes."

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 231.

Consul Sandwith to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Canea, Crete, September 30, 1878.*

I HAD the honour on the 23rd instant to receive your Excellency's telegram of the previous day which runs thus:—

"*September* 22, 1878, 11 A.M.—(Following sent to Foreign Office.) With regard to the elections in the Assembly the Porte proposes to adopt the principle laid down by the Constitution, which would give Christian province the majority. Your views I have submitted to the Grand Vizier. The Porte [?] to agree to the demand that the Governor-General shall in future be always a Christian.

"The Porte is afraid that if you are present at the sittings of the Commission, to which it had consented at first, a precedent will be afforded by which foreign Consuls might on other occasions claim a similar right."

Another short telegram, having reference to the first paragraph of the above, accompanied it.

In consequence of a confusion in a group of cyphers, I was obliged to telegraph again in these words:—

"Owing to some obscurity in your Excellency's telegram, I cannot make out if the Porte agrees or not to the demand that the Governor-General shall in future be always a Christian."

The following morning I had the honour to receive the answer, which was to the effect that the Porte did not agree to the demand.

When I communicated this news to the Delegates the next day they were greatly dejected, and one of them signified to me that such was the confidence of all the Christians in the justice and impartiality of his Excellency Costaki Pasha, that with him as Vali it would be a matter of much less consequence to make conditions with the Porte, so assured were they that the administration would be honestly conducted. I told them that though the Porte objected to the principle that the Valis should always be Christians, there was no reason why the first Governor-General should not be a Christian, though in saying this I had no means of knowing what were the intentions of the Porte on the subject.

On the 24th instant the eighth sitting of the Delegates was held, in which the Sphakian Delegates for the first time took part. Much time was taken up in a vain attempt on the part of the Commissioner to induce them to agree that when any modification in the law was proposed by the General Assembly the proposal should unite two-thirds of the suffrages (three-fourths having been the Commissioner's first proposal), before it could be brought to the notice of the Porte. I have already given the reasons why the Delegates refused to agree to this restriction, which, so long as Crete is divided into two hostile parties, would be a permanent obstacle to the introduction of the most necessary reforms.

Objection was next taken by the Delegates to the power possessed by individuals of procuring Iradés which override the law. The extent to which the power of issuing Iradés has been abused almost passes belief. They sometimes emanate from the Grand Vizier, and very frequently the Vali himself issues orders, locally known as Iradés, and in nearly all cases their direct effect is arbitrarily to interfere with the course of justice. The subject is too long fully to enter into here; but it would be possible to cite, not one, but fifty, instances in which the law is thus made an engine of injustice or oppression, and nearly always to the detriment of Christians, who have not the necessary influence, either here or at Constantinople, to prevent the obtaining of these Iradés. It is a perfectly legitimate object, therefore, of the Christians to attempt to put a stop to abuses of so glaring a nature, and it will hardly be believed that the Commissioner, from a mistaken zeal for the authority of his Sovereign, whether original or delegated, resisted this demand, and the meeting broke up with less prospect than ever of either party coming to a satisfactory arrangement.

On the 25th instant took place the ninth sitting. The discussions this day ranged over a wide field of subjects without any practical result being arrived at. It transpired, in the course of the deliberations, that the Porte was desirous of withdrawing the privilege now possessed by the people to elect their own Judges, who should, in future, be appointed by the Vali instead. This privilege, which in practice cannot be said to have worked for the advantage of any class of the population, will, if withdrawn, make the office of Governor-General one of still greater responsibility. A hint was also dropped that the Cretans would be expected to send two Deputies to represent them in the Chamber at Constantinople, a step to which the Christians have shown an

invincible repugnance. These and a few other subjects having been touched upon without any practical result, the Delegates at last proposed to draw up a list of their demands, and to present them to the Imperial Commissioner for a categorical answer, after which the members dispersed. The meeting over, Costaki Pasha sent for the Delegates to his house, and told them that the Imperial Commissioner had charged him to act as mediator between himself and the Delegates, with the view of coming to a satisfactory arrangement. The announcement produced the best possible effect on his hearers, his Excellency having entirely won their confidence by his evident desire to come to an understanding honourable to both parties. The Delegates who came to my house that night told me that his Excellency then proceeded to inform them that he was authorized thus to summarize the powers now conferred on the General Assembly:—

The Ottoman legislation shall be in force in Crete. In order that this legislation may be completed in conformity with the wants of the island, the right is accorded to the General Assembly to frame a Civil and Criminal Procedure, and a Municipal Law.

The General Assembly shall, besides, have the right of voting laws of purely local interest, as, for example, on sheep-stealing; on the carrying off, or inveigling away, young girls; on damage done to property, &c.

If to the legislation thus completed there should appear room for any further addition or modification, that could not be made without the previous authorization of the Imperial Government.

Costaki Pasha had also added that he would come to a final arrangement with them on the formation of the Administrative Councils (which was as good as settled), and of the Courts of Law, the Judges of which would henceforth be nominated by the Government.

On the following day, when the Delegates were assembled for the tenth time, instead of the Governor-General being left to deliberate with them alone on the above points, Ghazi Mukhtar Pasha and Salim Effendi presented themselves, and modified considerably the wording in which the powers to be conferred on the Assembly had been drawn up. The proviso was also inserted that if, within six months, the Sublime Porte shall have promulgated Codes of Civil and Criminal Procedure for the whole Empire, such Codes should also have force in Crete.

This condition, which I cannot but consider reasonable, coupled with certain changes in the phraseology tending to restrict the power of the General Assembly, sufficed to introduce a spirit of discord in the meeting, which broke up under the impression that they might not assemble again.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 3 in No. 231.

Consul Sandwith to Sir A. H. Layard.

Canea, Crete, September 30, 1878.

Sir,

THE Commissioner finding that the temper exhibited by the Delegates at their last sitting portended a rupture of the negotiations, did me the honour to seek my advice and mediation. His Excellency showed me the terms in which he had proposed that the General Assembly should be authorized to draw up the Civil and Criminal Codes of Procedure and other privileges to be accorded to that body, as already reported in my last despatch, and asked me whether I did not think them acceptable. I told his Excellency that I did not think the Christians would accept the limitation of the power of the Assembly involved in the two-thirds vote for reasons already mentioned; and seeing that the sanction of the Porte was required before any measures proposed by the Assembly could become law, I could not but consider the precaution as superfluous. With regard to the proviso about the delay of six months, I thought it reasonable enough, and undertook to do my best to induce the Delegates to accept it. I hoped there would not be much difficulty in coming to an understanding about the question of the Administrative Councils; but I foresaw that much opposition would be encountered as to the right of the Government to choose the Judges for the Tribunals.

As regarded the determination shown by his Excellency that Iradés should continue to have the force of law, I could not but differ *in toto* from that view, nor did I think that the Christians would relax their opposition to it. At any rate, I promised

to meet the Delegates that evening (the 28th instant), and to see whether some compromise could not be arrived at on these subjects. In my interview with them it was clear enough that much of the misunderstanding that had arisen between them and Ghazi Mukhtar Pasha must be set down to a question of redaction, and the extreme importance the Delegates attached to the phraseology in which the conditions should be drawn up was due to want of confidence, as painful experience had taught them that unless the most rigid attention was paid to the drawing up of what may be called their Charter of Rights, the Porte would seek to evade the execution of it by a perverse or ingenious twisting of the meaning intended. I was at pains to endeavour to hit upon forms of expression which combined the desired accuracy with the respect due to the Government; but I found the Delegates intractable, as I anticipated, on the subject of the two-thirds vote, and on that of Iradés, which they would not admit should contravene the provisions of the Organic Law or the legislation when once completed. On questions outside these spheres they had no objection to their operation. With regard to the delay of six months allowed the Porte for the publication of the Codes of Civil and Criminal Procedure they were not obstinate. When I came to talk with them on the power of the Government to appoint Judges, I found that here again the question resolved itself into one of confidence. With Costaki Pasha as Vali, they expressed their readiness to leave to his Excellency the selection of Judges and all other functionaries with the utmost confidence, assured that the choice made by him would provide a far more capable staff of men than that which popular election could produce. If, however, they said, a stranger unacquainted with the language and the people were appointed as Governor, we know by an unvarying experience that he could not, however well-intentioned, sever himself from the society of, or fail to listen to the advice offered him by, those who spoke his own language, and who were men who cannot rise superior to motives of a petty personal kind, and the consequence would be the appointment of incapable and even fanatical Judges. Therefore, they continued, our people would oppose their being deprived of the right of electing their Judges, unless they were sure of their being appointed by a Vali thoroughly conversant with the people.

The result of the interview was to convince me that if the Porte hoped to come to a speedy understanding with its Cretan subjects, it would be most desirable that his Excellency Costaki Pasha should be confirmed in his post for five years. Such a measure would satisfy not the Christians only, but the great bulk of the Mussulmans also, who are fully convinced of the Vali's impartiality, and who are too shrewd not to see that his Excellency's confirmation in his post offers the best guarantee for the establishment of tranquillity. Costaki Pasha is not a Cretan, and has no relations in the island, which is another point in his favour.

Seeing that the whole hierarchy of officials throughout the island, both administrative and judicial, will have to be appointed by the Governor-General who may happen to be in power, it is of the utmost importance that a stranger should not occupy that post, and there is no one so well fitted as his Excellency for doing justice to both religious parties. The appointments made by the late Hussein Avni Pasha, who was Vali here at the close of the last insurrection, contributed more than anything else to disgust the Christians with the Government, and it is obvious that a stranger might fall into a similar mistake. Deeply impressed with these considerations, I had the honour yesterday to send the following telegram to your Excellency:—

"Unless Costaki Pasha be confirmed immediately as Governor-General for five years, there is not much hope of an understanding being arrived at. The Christians will be much less exacting in some of their demands with him as Governor-General, because they have full confidence in his impartiality. They give up their demand that the Vali should be always a Christian."

In an interview I had with Costaki Pasha yesterday his Excellency told me that the Commissioner and himself had agreed that the Delegates should draw up a list of their demands, a copy of which would be communicated to me, and that they would then decide what could be granted and what must be refused. It is the Commissioner's intention to invite me to be present at their meetings, with a consultative voice, and the Delegates will be called when their presence will contribute to throw light on any subject. In this way more rapid progress is expected to be made than by long and weary debates.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 4 in No. 231.

Consul Sandwith to Sir A. H. Layard.

Canea, Crete, October 1, 1878.

Sir,

ON the 26th ultimo I received a telegram from the Consular Agent at Rethymo to the effect that the Mussulmans were pillaging the Christian villages and olive trees near that town, and that the Mutessarif had told him confidentially that they were on the eve of deplorable events. These tidings were fully confirmed by his Excellency the Vali, who told me that he had since telegraphed to the Mutessarif to assemble the Mussulman leaders, and engage them to wait patiently a little longer, when the settlement of the affairs of the island would permit them to return quietly home. Smooth words spoken with sincerity produced a momentary calm, to which, perhaps, contributed not a little, the unexpected arrival of Her Majesty's ironclad "Defence," which happened to put in at that moment on her return from Syra to Suda Bay. In this neighbourhood, also, the destitute Mussulmans have been robbing the olive trees of their Christian neighbours, and the Government cannot put an effectual stop to these disorders. That they were to be looked for was clear to everyone cognizant of the situation, and therefore all the more blame attaches to those who did not heartily second the efforts made by the Vali a week previously to procure the return of the Mussulman peasants to their farms.

The day before yesterday Costaki Pasha informed me that the greatest effervescence prevailed in Candia, Rethymo, and Hierapetra, in the south-east of Crete, where Mussulman landed proprietors and peasantry were resolved, at all hazards, to sally forth and proceed in armed bodies to their several homes. The Mutessarif of Candia telegraphed, in great alarm, for instructions, saying that it was impossible for him to stem the popular feeling, which, left without control, might lead to possible conflicts. The Pasha telegraphed that measures should be taken immediately to allow of their return, and he addressed himself to me to second his efforts to renew the engagement concluded with the Christian Chiefs and Delegates only a week before. To this end we adjourned at once to his Excellency's house, where the Christian Delegates met us, and it was agreed that two or three of their number, accompanied by Mr. Vice-Consul Monzzo, should set out on the morrow to acquaint the National Assembly and Chiefs that the Mussulmans were on the point of trusting themselves amongst them again, and to beg them to give them a safe-conduct and a favourable reception.

It is a subject of regret that the course of the negotiations with the Commissioner has not latterly given satisfaction to the Christians, and on the other hand, it is equally to be regretted that the latter have, in some parts of the country, been stripping olive trees belonging to Mussulmans of their berries, so that I am not quite so confident as formerly that all will go peacefully when the two communities are again face to face, without any established authority to trust to for protection. There was no room, however, for hesitation, when an appeal was made to me by the Vali for my mediation as peacemaker.

Mr. Monzzo returned this morning from his mission to the General Assembly and Chiefs, and reports to me that the same friendly disposition towards the Mussulman refugees continues to prevail amongst them. They declare that they never had any quarrel with them, but only with the Government. If the Mussulmans consent to-day to sign the Agreement, a copy of which was annexed to my despatch of the 20th ultimo, their immediate return home may be confidently looked for.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 232.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 10.)

Scutari, October 9, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

DEPUTATION of Mahommedan and Christian refugees from Antivari and the district of Krain, conquered by Montenegro, have appealed to me about their return to their homes. A few who have attempted to go back have been ordered away by the Montenegrins, and the Turkish authorities also discourage their repatriation.

These refugees are no longer subsisted by the Government, and their private

means are exhausted. If they are not immediately allowed to return to harvest their olive and autumnal crops they will be in the greatest destitution during the coming winter. Their hope is that England will not permit the XXXth Article of the Treaty to be disregarded until too late.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 233.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 10.)

Bucharest, October 10, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

BESSARABIAN district probably shall be taken possession of by Russia on Sunday next, the 13th instant.

No. 234.

Colonel Home to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 10.)

Therapia, October 10, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

COMMISSION not yet constituted. Turkish member not yet officially named. European members have had three unofficial meetings.

Referring to your despatch No. 2, other Powers are represented by two officers only, one for Bulgaria and one for Roumelia.

Commissioners say that they are not prepared to survey, not having been provided with a staff for the purpose. Their Governments consider the survey should be made by the countries between which the frontier is delimitated.

Russians say that by the spring they will have complete map of the Balkan, but do not promise to give it, and it must be verified.

As to Dobrudscha, where I hope Commission will begin, shall I survey boundary? I do not see how to determine the boundary of two independent States, unless survey be made and boundary marks fixed. If you decide not to survey, staff at my disposal might be reduced. But the Roumanian authorities should be communicated with at once to prepare survey at the time that the Commission determines the boundary. Turks care nothing for this frontier. I foresee endless trouble, and Commission work will be utterly useless if no survey be done. If you decide not to survey, shall I communicate with Mr. White as to action of Roumanian Government? Commissioners evidently desire to perform duty in a very perfunctory manner.

Despatch on this subject by messenger.

No. 234*.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

Foreign Office, October 10, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

PRAY submit to Count Andrassy the following telegram from Sir H. Layard, and ask his opinion upon it.

[Telegram No. 905 from Sir H. Layard of October 9: see No. 214.]

No. 235.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

Foreign Office, October 10, 1878, 3·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to the telegram from Mr. Green, of yesterday, point out to the Grand Vizier that until the cessions provided for in Treaty of Berlin have been made it is impossible to press Montenegro to repatriate refugees.

No. 236.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 10, 1878, 4 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 305, Her Majesty's Government entirely decline to accept the contention that Russia has right to occupy Turkish territory for an indefinite period, on account of the supposed meaning of an Article in the Treaty of San Stefano. Such a proceeding would be in violation of Treaty of Paris, re-enacted by Article LXIII of the Treaty of Berlin. I think that the Grand Vizier must have mistaken the meaning of the Russian Ambassador.

No. 237.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 10, 1878, 6·50 P.M.

RUSSIANS propose that Commissioners of Delimitation shall take their orders from Ambassadors at Constantinople.

I have no objection. Have you?

No. 238.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1225.) *Foreign Office, October* 10, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your Excellency's despatch No. 1172 of the 24th ultimo, reporting the steps which have been taken for the withdrawal of the British fleet to Artaki in view of the evacuation of San Stefano by the Russian forces.

Her Majesty's Government approve the course which your Excellency has followed in regard to this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 239.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1220.) *Foreign Office, October* 10, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 1185 of the 25th ultimo, reporting that you have authorized Mr. Calvert to visit the neighbourhood of Adrianople for the purpose of ascertaining the condition of the Turkish refugees who have returned to their homes.

The authority so given, and the scale of expenditure fixed for Mr. Calvert's journey, have my approval.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 240.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1227.) [B.B.] *Foreign Office, October* 10, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 1168 of the 23rd ultimo, relative to the constitution of the Tribunal to be established at Erzeroum for the protection of the Christians on the withdrawal of the Russian forces; and I have to express to you my approval of the representations which you have made to Safvet Pasha on this subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 241.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1228.) *Foreign Office, October* 10, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 1173 of the 24th ultimo, relative to Mr. St. Clair's departure from the insurgent districts in the Rhodope Mountains.

The course taken by your Excellency, and the advice given by you to the Grand Vizier in regard to this matter, have the entire approval of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 241*.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1230.) *Foreign Office, October* 10, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE to state to your Excellency that the Secretary of State for War has intimated to me that the services of Colonel Maitland in Turkey are no longer required by the War Office, and he suggests that his employment on special duty in that quarter should now cease.

Secretary Colonel Stanley inquires whether the continued employment of Sir Collingwood Dickson and the additional Assistant Military Attachés appointed during the late war between Russia and Turkey is, in my opinion, indispensable.

I propose to inform Colonel Stanley in reply that, so far as this Department is concerned, the services of Sir Collingwood Dickson, and of the other officers alluded to, may now be discontinued, but before doing this I should be glad to know your Excellency's views on the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 242.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1243.) [B.B.] *Foreign Office, October* 10, 1878.

Sir,

YOUR Excellency will have learned from Mr. Green's telegram of the 9th instant that an appeal has been made to him by the refugees, both Mahommedan and Christian, from Antivari and the district of Kraia to obtain their repatriation in order that they may secure their olives and other crops, the loss of which would subject them to the greatest destitution during the ensuing winter.

I request that in bringing the condition of these people to the notice of the Grand Vizier you will state to his Highness that it is impossible for Her Majesty's Government to press that of Montenegro to permit the return of the refugees to their homes until the Porte shall have completed the cessions of territory made to the Principality by the Treaty of Berlin.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 243.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1245.)
Foreign Office, October 10, 1878.

Sir,

I UNDERSTAND that the Russian Government wish that the various Commissioners for the delimitation of the boundaries, appointed under the Treaty of Berlin, shall refer to their Ambassadors at Constantinople for instructions upon any points on which questions may arise, and which they may be unable to determine on the spot.

I am not at present aware of any objection to such an arrangement, but before committing myself to it I should be glad to be furnished with your Excellency's views.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 244.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1247.) [B.B.]
Foreign Office, October 10, 1878.

Sir,

HER Majesty's Government have learned with much surprise, from your Excellency's telegram of yesterday, that Prince Labanoff had stated to the Grand Vizier that there could be no question at present of the evacuation of Adrianople by the Russians, bringing forward in support of this assertion Article XXV of the Treaty of San Stefano, which provides that "the complete evacuation of Turkey in Europe, with the exception of Bulgaria, by the Russian army will take place within three months of the conclusion of the definitive peace between His Majesty the Emperor of Russia and His Majesty the Sultan."

According to Prince Labanoff this evacuation will not be carried into effect until the Treaty now proposed by Russia to the Porte has been accepted and signed.

I have to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government entirely decline to acquiesce in the contention advanced by Prince Labanoff that, on account of the supposed meaning of an Article in the Treaty of San Stefano, Russia has a right to occupy Turkish territory for an indefinite period. Such a proceeding on the part of Russia would be a violation of the Treaty of Paris, the unrepealed stipulations of which are re-enacted by Article LXIII of the Treaty of Berlin.

Her Majesty's Government cannot but think, therefore, that Safvet Pasha must have misunderstood the purport of the observations addressed to his Highness by the Russian Ambassador.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 245.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 539.)
Foreign Office, October 10, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE requested your Excellency to-day by telegraph to communicate to Count Andrassy the information received from Sir H. Layard as to the representation reported to have been made to the Grand Vizier by the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople, that Russia considered that there could be no question of the evacuation of Adrianople until the Treaty now proposed by her to the Porte had been accepted and signed, as it was provided by the Treaty of San Stefano that she was not to evacuate the Turkish territories in her occupation until three months after the signature of a definitive Treaty of Peace.

I desired you to ask Count Andrassy for his opinion upon the representation said to have been made in this sense.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 246.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 553.)
Foreign Office, October 10, 1878.

Sir,

THE Russian Chargé d'Affaires inquired of me to-day whether Her Majesty's Government would consent to allow the members of the Commissions of Delimitation, appointed under the Treaty of Berlin, to make their reports to the Ambassadors at Constantinople, instead of to their respective Governments. I reserved my reply to the inquiry.

The suggestion, at first sight, appears to be innocent; but there may be a reason for it which is not manifest on the surface; there has often been ground for doubting whether Count Zichy has been acting altogether in harmony with the views entertained by Count Andrassy, and it is not impossible that this circumstance may account for the proposal.

I should wish your Excellency to take an opportunity, if you should be able to find one, of sounding Count Andrassy on the subject, and to report to me what he thinks of the idea.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 247.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Dering.

(No. 495.)
Foreign Office, October 10, 1878.

Sir,

I MENTIONED to-day to Count Münster a surprising contention which, according to Sir H. Layard's telegram No. 995 of the 9th instant, has been advanced by Prince Labanoff, as to the evacuation of Turkey by Russia. Prince Labanoff is reported to have said to the Grand Vizier that it was provided by the Treaty of San Stefano that Russia was not to evacuate Turkish territory until three months after the signature of the definitive Treaty of Peace; that the definitive Treaty of Peace was not the Treaty of Berlin, but a Treaty now proposed by Prince Labanoff; and, consequently, that until this Treaty now offered by Russia to the Porte had been accepted and signed, there could be no question of the evacuation of Adrianople.

Count Münster expressed great surprise that the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople, to whom he had attributed conciliatory views, should have put forward a claim so little likely to result in bringing about a better agreement between the two Powers. He thought, however, that the Grand Vizier might have misunderstood Prince Labanoff.

I pointed out to his Excellency that, if Russia remained in Turkish territory for the purpose of extorting the assent of the Porte to the Treaty which Prince Labanoff had proposed, she would be committing an infraction of the Treaty of Paris, and, consequently, of the Treaty of Berlin.

Count Münster appeared to agree in this view of the question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 249.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 531.) [B.B.]
Foreign Office, October 10, 1878.

My Lord,

I SPOKE to-day to the Russian Chargé d'Affaires respecting the language which, according to Sir H. Layard's telegram No. 995 of the 9th instant, has been addressed to the Grand Vizier by the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople as to the evacuation of Turkish territory by Russia.

I said that it was impossible for Her Majesty's Government to accept the view which Prince Labanoff had put forward, that because it was provided by the Treaty of San Stefano that Russia was not to evacuate Turkish territory until three months after the signature of the definitive Treaty of Peace she was not bound to evacuate Adrianople until the Treaty now proposed by her to the Porte has been accepted and signed.

I pointed out to him that such a proceeding would be an infraction of the Treaty of Paris, which, in respect to its unrepealed stipulations, had been re-enacted by the Treaty of Berlin.

M. Bartholomei undertook to convey this intimation to his Government, and at the same time handed to me a telegram, of which I inclose a copy. He stated that owing to the anarchy prevailing in the country recently occupied by Russia, and the atrocities the Turks were practising on the Christians, the retirement of the Russian army had been arrested, and earnestly impressed on me the importance of speedy action on the part of the Ottoman Government to prevent disorder. I promised the earnest co-operation of Her Majesty's Government in preventing a renewal of the calamities to which these regions had been exposed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 249.

Sir J. Paunceforte to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Foreign Office, October 10, 1878.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th instant, stating that the Board of Admiralty is of opinion that the suggestion of Vice-Admiral Sir G. Phipps Hornby, that should the British squadron be detained in the Sea of Marmora beyond the end of October, it should take up its winter quarters at Ismid, should be approved.

In reply I am to state to you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that Lord Salisbury is not prepared at the present moment to assent to Sir G. Phipps Hornby's proposal, and that he is of opinion that this question would be more conveniently taken into consideration at a later period.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 250.

Sir J. Paunceforte to Mr. Lingen.

Foreign Office, October 10, 1878.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to inform you that Her Majesty's Government propose to send Mr. Edward F. Harrison, Comptroller-General at Calcutta, to Constantinople for the purpose of inquiring into the financial condition of the Ottoman Empire.

The mission intrusted to Mr. Harrison is one to which Her Majesty's Government attach much importance, and Lord Salisbury has obtained the consent of the Secretary of State for India in Council to the retention by that gentleman of his furlough allowance during the period of his employment, provided that it does not exceed a year from the date of the expiration of his leave of absence (which terminates in January next).

Lord Salisbury would propose, for the concurrence of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, that the difference between Mr. Harrison's furlough allowance (1,000*l.* a-year) and the full pay of his Indian appointment (42,000 rupees a-year) should be made good to him from Imperial funds during his employment upon the present inquiry, and that his travelling and other expenses should also be borne by the public in the manner usual in the case of special missions.

It will be necessary for the proper execution of Mr. Harrison's task that he should have the services of a gentleman versed in accounts, and in whom he can have full confidence. I am to request that you will move their Lordships to consider whether one of the gentlemen on the establishment of the Treasury could not be attached to Mr. Harrison for this purpose.

An early reply is requested, as it is desired that Mr. Harrison should, if possible, start for Constantinople next Thursday.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 251.

Vice-Consul Anamissaki to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 70.)

Excellence, *Tchesmé, le* 30 *Septembre*, 1878.

PAR le présent humble exposé j'ai l'honneur de vous référer que l'occupation de l'Ile de Chypre par le respectable Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine a piqué vivement la rivalité des habitants de l'Ile de Scio, et ils se plaignent en entendant qu'elle sera concédée, d'après les uns aux Français, d'après les autres aux Italiens, et en se rappelant des oppressions que subirent d'autrefois les habitants par ces derniers, lorsque dominant de la dite île, et célébrant les dispositions humaines des Anglais et soins bienveillants que avaient appliqués pour le développement et bonheur des Iles Ioniènnes, pendant la durée de leur occupation par le Gouvernement Britannique et la grande protection que leurs habitants jouissaient, les habitants de Scio, dis-je, ont commencé de se mettre en émoi, ignorant leur incertain et futur sort.

En conséquence plusieurs des notables habitants de Scio et de ceux qui, étant établis à l'étranger, ont visité dernièrement leur patrie, m'ont exprimé leur plus grand dévouement et reconnaissance envers le respectable Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine, ainsi qu'à toute la nation glorieuse Britannique en préconisant les dispositions bienveillantes, sympathiques, et bienfaisantes qu'elle prodigua de tout temps envers la nation Grèceque, comme à présent aussi c'est l'Angleterre qui la première, dans ses soucis humains pour l'amélioration du sort des Chrétiens qui sont sous la domination Turque, fit des nobles efforts, et comme elle met continuellement les plus grands soins et la plus grande sollicitude pour reprendre leur protection.

Les mêmes manifestations de reconnaissance envers le respectable Gouvernement m'ont aussi été exprimé par plusieurs des habitants du district de Tchesmé à ma dernière transition ici, lesquels épuisés et abattus déjà par les impôts onéreux réguliers et irréguliers, et par les oppressions intolérables et ne pouvant plus se relever de l'extrême misère et indigence dans lesquelles ils se trouvent, ils attendent avec impatience et émoi les salutaires résultats de la disposition humaine du respectable Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine, pour leur protection projetée, dont ils ont déjà fort besoin.

Le plus grand calme règne actuellement parmi les populations de Tchesmé et Scio. L'avenir incertain et les nouvelles complications survenues dernièrement aux diverses provinces de la Turquie d'Europe empêchent la reprise des affaires, et la situation en général de ces doux districts devient de jour en jour plus critique.

Daignez, &c.
(Signé) D. ANAMISSAKI.

No. 252.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 709.)

My Lord, *Paris, October* 10, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a note in which, in obedience to your Lordship's instructions, I have inquired what is the opinion of the French Government with regard to the administration of Roumelia pending the final organization of the Province of Eastern Roumelia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 252.

Lord Lyons to M. Waddington.

M. le Ministre, *Paris, October* 10, 1878.

HER Majesty's Government are desirous of being made acquainted with the opinion of the French Government with respect to the administration of Roumelia pending the final organization of the Province of Eastern Roumelia.

Her Majesty's Government are themselves of opinion that during this intermediate period the administration should be with the Porte, or with the European Commission.

I shall be very much obliged if your Excellency will enable me to convey to Her Majesty's Government the information they desire to obtain respecting the view taken by the French Government of this question; and I beg you to accept, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

No. 253.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 29.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 10, 1878.*

AUSTRIAN and French Commissioners have resolved not to return on Saturday to discussion of Monday, but merely to discuss practical details connected with Article XIX of Treaty. If Russians make statement we will not discuss it, unless instructed meanwhile to the contrary.

No. 254.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 907.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 10, 1878.*

BAKER PASHA informs me that the Russians have stopped all traffic on the Adrianople railway, and have kept back all rolling stock [?] have ceased to retire on the plea that the Christians require protection, and have called on the Turkish Commanders to stop their onward movement. General Skobeleff wishes now to get back line from Rodosto through Said Koui to Media, and is pushing back Turkish cavalry outposts. Baker says Russian retreat may be at any moment turned into an advance.

Language of Russian Ambassador has been somewhat threatening during last few days, and I cannot see without anxiety the weakening of the Turkish force before Constantinople and Bulair. It is not improbable that Russia may require Turks to send troops to occupy territories evacuated in order to scatter them.

No. 255.

Mr. Macdonell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, October 10, 1878.*
(Confidential.)

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, Count Corti says that he considers the question of the administration of Eastern Roumelia during intermediate period a serious one. He finds that Articles XVIII and XIX do not tally; he would, therefore, be glad to know on what grounds your Lordship forms the opinion that it should rest with the Porte or the Commission.

Italian Commissioner has asked for instructions, but Count Corti has postponed answer, wishing to act in concert with your Lordship.

No. 255*.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

Foreign Office, October 11, 1878, 8 A.M.
(Telegraphic.)

RUSSIAN Chargé d'Affaires has asked me to allow Commissions of Delimitation to report to Ambassadors at Constantinople instead of to Governments. At first sight request seems innocent; but we have often had reason to doubt whether Zichy was pulling same way as Andrassy; and perhaps that circumstance may account for proposal.

If you can, you had better sound Andrassy.

No. 256.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 11, 1878, 11 A.M.*

I HAVE spoken in sense of my telegram of yesterday to Russian Chargé d'Affaires. He brought a message from his Government earnestly pressing that Turks would cause country evacuated by the Russians to be occupied by their troops, in order to prevent atrocities.

I think it of extreme importance this recommendation should be attended to.

No. 257.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 170.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October 11, 1878.*

"JOURNAL DE ST. PÉTERSBOURG" of this morning announces order of General Kauffmann, published by "Turkestan Gazette," dated the 14th August, for demobilization of reserve troops and dismissal of levies of 1870 and 1871 in military circle of Turkestan.

No. 258.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 908.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 11, 1878.*

I HAVE communicated substance of your telegram of the 10th to the Grand Vizier, who says that there is no mistake as to the Russian Ambassador's intimation [?] to him that, as no provision is made in the Treaty of Berlin for the withdrawal of Russian troops from the territories they occupy outside of Eastern Roumelia, Russia cannot be called upon to evacuate them, according to the XXVth Article of the Treaty of San Stefano, until three months after the conclusion of definite Treaty of Peace, which she now proposes to sign with Turkey.

No. 259.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 909.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 11, 1878.*

IN answer to your telegram respecting placing of the Commission of Demarcation under the orders of Ambassadors at Constantinople, I see no objection.

No. 260.

Mr. Dering to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 54.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, October 11, 1878*

M. DE BULOW informed me to-day, in reply to your question as to the view of the German Government regarding the intermediary administration of Eastern Roumelia, that he must first read his Constantinople correspondence just arrived, and that as soon as he had studied the matter, which was by no means a simple one, he would give me an answer.

No. 261.

Mr. Dering to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 55.)
(Telegraphic.)

Berlin, October 11, 1878.

GERMAN Minister for Foreign Affairs informed me to-day he had just received Roumelian Commissioners' Report. It appeared that all the Commissioners were not in possession of signed powers. Consequently German Government saw no necessity for furnishing their Commissioner with them, and Count Hatzfeldt had not even applied for them. The appointment of Herr von Braunschweig had been notified to all the Powers concerned. His Excellency thought it in the interest of all the Powers to simplify proceedings on account of number of Commissioners, the possibility of frequent changes in the *personnel* and the avoiding of much trouble and expense.

No. 262.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 11.)

(No. .)
(Telegraphic.)

Vienna, October 11, 1878.

IN reply to your Lordship's telegram of the 9th, no objection is felt by the Austrian Government to the demarcation of Servian and Bulgarian boundary by the Servian Commission, but it is considered that each Commissioner should obtain consent of his Government to that course, and that proceedings should not be carried on till arrival of the Turkish member.

They have urged the Porte to hurry him.

No. 263.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 239. [? *sic.*])
(Telegraphic.)

Vienna, October 11, 1878.

AUSTRIAN Eastern Roumelian Commissioner has telegraphed that as the Commission has by Treaty the control of the finances, he considers that it must also have the administration of the province, and that unless otherwise instructed he will act on this opinion.

Count Andrassy being absent from Vienna, Baron Calice cannot at this moment reply further to your Lordship's inquiry as to view taken of the question by the Imperial Government.

No. 264.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1249.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, October 11, 1878.

SINCE my despatch No. 1247 of yesterday's date was written I have had an opportunity of placing before M. Bartholomei the views of Her Majesty's Government with regard to the opinion attributed to Prince Labanoff that Russia will refuse to withdraw her troops from Turkish territories until three months have expired from the date of the signature of the definitive Treaty of Peace, the draft of which has recently been submitted to the Porte by Russia.

I have now to acquaint your Excellency that M. Bartholomei has stated to me that he has been instructed by his Government to call my attention to the imperative necessity which existed, in order to prevent the occurrence of further atrocities, that the Turks should occupy with their troops the districts evacuated by the Russians, and he earnestly begged that I would press the Porte to take immediate steps with that object.

I have already informed your Excellency by telegraph that Her Majesty's Government consider it to be of extreme importance that the Porte should act upon the recommendation with the utmost diligence.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 265.

Consul Lyall to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 12.)

(No. 33. Consular.) [B.B.]
My Lord,

Tiflis, September 19, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that the Turkish prisoners of war have now all returned to Turkish territory.

The Prince Mirsky, Military Governor of the Caucasus, arrived here on the 17th from Batoum, where he has been superintending the occupation.

Batoum is to remain for some time under military government; General Kommaroff is appointed Governor, with the Prince Gregory Gouriel as his lieutenant and aide.

The people are reported as settling down tranquilly; all those formerly in Ottoman Government employ have left, but the gross of the population is said to have remained. This result is due mainly to the exertions of the Prince Gregory Gouriel, who has always possessed great influence and popularity among the mountaineers, with whose Chiefs his family is closely connected.

The Kahoulolz say that they propose giving Russian rule a trial.

The Grand Duke Michael purposes making a tour shortly through the newly acquired territory, from Kars and the Soghanly range vid Ardahan to Batoum, after which he proceeds to Germany and thence to St. Petersburgh. The Grand Duchess and the family leave for the Crimea, whence they will rejoin the Grand Duke in Europe.

It is said that they will be absent for a year at least from the Caucasus, and that it is probable that they will not return.

A great deal of discontent with the Grand Duke's administration exists, he being said to be easily influenced.

The division of the Caucasus into two separate governments or satrapies is said to be probable.

Subsequent to the evacuation of Erzeroum, Beyazid, and the adjoining districts of Turkish Armenia by the Russians, several thousands of Armenians, principally from the neighbourhood of Alashgerd, Kara-Kilissa, and the Persian caravan route (having previously destroyed their villages and sold the wood planks, &c., as firewood to the Russian army and the camp followers), commenced an exodus, and are now *en route* towards the Government of Erivan and valley of the Araxes.

It was at first apparently taken for granted by the Russian commanders that this procedure would be, if not encouraged by their Government, at any rate permitted; and no measures (except, I believe, in the case of some who wished to quit Erzeroum) were taken to forbid or postpone the movement. It was, however, reported yesterday that the Grand Duke had issued an order prohibiting these refugees from entering Russian territory. Should this order be enforced, it is probable that, as these people have destroyed their houses in a country almost destitute of timber, and as winter is not far off, great suffering will ensue, and blame attaches to the Russian authorities for not warning them beforehand. All these immigrants owed arrears of land revenue, poll tax, &c., to the Ottoman Government, which they were in some cases, perhaps, unable, but in most simply unwilling, to pay.

The roguery and grasping avarice displayed by these people throughout the war has, generally speaking, completely disgusted the Russians, and any further addition to the Armenian population of the Caucasus is looked upon as a calamity.

I hear that 15,000 men under General Kauffman are moving from Russian Turkistan towards the Afghan frontier, probably with a view to form a junction at Merv with the force of twenty-four battalions and six companies, reported in my last despatch as moving from Krasnovodsk along the Attrek.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER TSCHUDI LYALL.

No. 266.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 12.)

(No. 166.)
Belgrade, September 25, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch I ventured to address directly to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, at the urgent prayer of the Servian Government, requesting his Excellency to use his good offices to obtain from the Porte the release of an officer and thirty-four privates of the Servian army, who are reported to be still detained as prisoners of war in the Ottoman dominions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

Inclosure in No. 266.

Mr. Gould to Sir A. H. Layard.

Belgrade, September 24, 1878.

Sir,

IT seems that a Servian recently returned from Salonica has brought back the information that a number of his countrymen, who were supposed to have been killed in the Turco-Servian campaign, are alive, and detained as prisoners of war by the Ottoman authorities. The Servian Government have therefore, in placing in my hands the accompanying list,* expressed the hope that your Excellency would, on behalf of Her Majesty's Government, kindly cause steps to be taken to obtain from the Porte the liberation of such of these unfortunate individuals as may still be living. I am assured that on a previous occasion several persons similarly situated were restored to their homes and families in Servia through the humane exertions of Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 267.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 12.)

(No. 168.)
Belgrade, September 27, 1878.

My Lord,

AS I have already had occasion to state to your Lordship, the question of determining the new line of frontier between Servia and Turkey, conformably to the decisions of the Congress of Berlin, presented but a short time ago so few real difficulties that it might have easily been settled without the direct intervention of the Great Powers. Servia, on her side, evinced a sincere desire to enter into friendly relations with the Porte, and the pressure caused by her financial embarrassments is such that to bring the matter to a speedy solution she was prepared to make any concessions which could reasonably have been asked of her. Turkey, also, on her part, had every reason to wish to arrive at an amicable understanding. The appointment as Ottoman Commissioner of the late Mehemed Ali Pasha, who during his previous mission to Belgrade had known how to ingratiate himself with the Servians, was at the same time an evident proof of the equally conciliatory spirit of the Porte towards her former vassal. In the last resort, if any serious difficulty had been experienced in coming to a compromise on some particular question, it could have been submitted to the decision of the Great Powers. However, this simple and practical method of proceeding apparently did not commend itself to the views of Russia, whose aim it is as much as possible to prevent Servia from entertaining friendly and intimate relations with Turkey as well as Austria, and to maintain her in a state of dependency, in order to be able at some future period to convert her territory into a base of operations against Turkey, and thus to turn the line of the Balkans.

The notification of the appointment of an International Commission for the demarcation of their frontiers was first received with as much surprise as regret by the Servian Government. Nevertheless, the arrival of Colonel Baron Kaulbars, the

* 1 officer and 34 men.

Russian Commissioner, has worked a great change. This officer deserves credit for never having lost an opportunity of making a display of his sympathies for Servia, and of his determination to see that full justice shall be done to all her claims by the Commission of which he is a member. He has likewise been so assiduous in his visits to the Minister of War and the other leading military men here, that more than one of his colleagues suspect him of being charged with some secret military mission. In his endeavours to influence the minds of the other Commissioners in favour of his views, he has been actively seconded by Count Joannini, the Italian Agent and Consul-General, whose remarkable talent for intrigue is well known to be more at the service of Prince Milan's Government than of his own.

Under these circumstances, it is not astonishing that the Servian Government should have become to some extent resigned, if not reconciled, to the idea of an International Commission, and that from day to day their pretensions should grow more exaggerated. They have prepared and distributed among the Commissioners a map differing in some important details from the Austrian staff map which was in the hands of the Plenipotentiaries at the Congress. According to this map, as far as I understand, the Servian line of frontier on the side of Vranja is made to run by a spur of the Karpina Planina, which is not to be found in the Austrian staff map, and which projects much further into the Turkish territory than the one designated by the Treaty. Were this pretension admitted, Servia would come into possession of an elevated table-land ("plateau") of considerable extent and great importance in a military point of view for aggressive purposes; in other words, of that very line of frontier the concession of which your Lordship so successfully opposed at the Congress. The Servians claim at the same time an extension of territory beyond the Kopnonik, for they maintain that the position of the Kamilug is wrongly marked in the Austrian staff map, as well as some defiles close up to the village of Prepolac.

When Prince Milan gave audience some days ago to the Commissioners, to whom he was very gracious, he laid great stress on the necessity of providing his Principality with strong strategical positions, in order to be able to resist any attack that might be directed against it by the Ottoman army. Considering that Servia has invariably been the aggressor, and that all danger of an attempt on the part of the Porte to effect her reconquest has passed away, it requires a great effort of imagination to discern the force of such an argument. So shallow a pretext would never have been put forward in the way it has been but for the instigation of Russian agents, and it would, therefore, be of the greatest possible benefit to Servia in her true interests were the Boundary Commission to reject her claims to military positions, which could only be of advantage for purposes of aggression, and an inducement to her powerful protector and abettor to devote more attention to her than would be at all conducive to her future peaceful development.

Prince Wredo, the Agent of the Austrian Government, whose interests are now so closely bound up with those of the European Provinces of Turkey since the occupation of Bosnia and the Herzegovina, has become rather alarmed at these proceedings and the language held by several of the Commissioners. He fears, in common with Major Billinek, the Austrian Commissioner, that should the plan provisionally adopted by the Commission be adhered to of submitting all disputed points to the vote of the majority, Servian pretensions will be unduly favoured to the prejudice of Turkey and Austria. He has, therefore, expressed the hope that Her Majesty's Government will accordingly instruct the British Commissioner on his arrival here to reject this arrangement, and to require that all questions about which divergences of opinion may arise should be solved either by means of a compromise amongst the Commissioners themselves, or by being referred for decision to their respective Governments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 268.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 12.)

(No. 172.)
Belgrade, September 20, 1878.

My Lord,

AT the audience Prince Milan granted me to-day for the purpose of presenting Major Wilson, the British Delegate to the Boundary Commission, His Highness informed me that he had addressed a telegram to the Sultan personally. After saying that he is determined for his own part to conform strictly in every respect to the

provisions of the Treaty of Berlin, and that he feels equally convinced that His Imperial Majesty accepts that Treaty in the same spirit, he goes on to express his confident hope that nothing any longer stands in the way of a renewal of those relations of amity and good neighbourhood ("rapports de bon voisinage") which formerly subsisted between them. At the same time, the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs likewise sent a telegraphic message to the Grand Vizier, couched in almost identical terms.

Prince Milan has been induced to take this somewhat unusual step in consequence of the utter inability of his Government to meet much longer the strain on the national finances, caused by the necessity of keeping up a large force for the protection of the frontiers in the present unsettled state of the Boundary question and of the neighbouring Turkish provinces. He assured me that, owing to the privations and hardships endured by the troops employed on this duty, he had lost many more men since peace had been concluded than he had during the last campaigns. Scarcely a week passed without false alarms of attacks by the Albanians, so that the militia dismissed to their homes one day had to be again called out the next. In this way the inhabitants of the border districts were unfortunately prevented from attending to the cultivation of their lands and harassed to death, whilst the country was being put to ruinous expense. As an instance of what was perpetually happening he told me that, whereas a fortnight ago he had only from 25,000 to 26,000 men under arms, he had been compelled last week suddenly to raise the number to 35,000, a great proportion of whom he had since then been able to muster out of the service.

His Highness and his Ministers hope that after the step they have taken to bring about a reconciliation with Turkey the Porte will no longer hesitate to send a Delegate to the Boundary Commission, especially if, as they have every reason to believe, this measure meets at Constantinople with the support of Her Majesty's Government. They also seem convinced that the presence alone of a Turkish Commissioner on the frontier in company with the Delegates of the Great Powers will cause the Albanians to desist from the threatening attitude they have so long maintained towards Servia.

Whilst I expressed to His Highness the very great satisfaction I experienced at hearing that he had taken so decided a step, which I felt assured would be attended with the best possible results, I did not conceal from him that I was by no means confident that under the present circumstances the Albanians would be disposed to show more respect for the decisions of the International Boundary Commission, even when backed up by the presence of an Ottoman Delegate, than they had hitherto for the authority of the Porte, as exemplified by the cruel murder of its Commissioner, the late Mehemet Ali Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 269.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 12.)

(No. 175.)
Belgrade, September 30, 1878.

My Lord,

THE unaccountable delay of the Porte in naming a Delegate to the International Boundary Commission is fraught with serious inconvenience to all parties. The season is so far advanced that it is exceedingly doubtful whether the Commission will be able, under the most favourable circumstances, to accomplish the task assigned to it, for the days are already very short, and autumnal fogs, rain, and even snow, may set in at any moment in the mountainous country along the frontier. Both the Commissioners, who are naturally impatient to set to work, and the Servian Government, who are growing desperate at these endless and to them ruinous delays, have done everything in their power to hasten the appointment of an Ottoman Commissioner.

There is, however, another and perhaps more serious obstacle to be overcome before the Commission can enter upon its duties, and that is, to provide for its safety. The accounts which reach this of the menacing attitude of the Albanians may be, and very possibly are, much exaggerated; but there can be no doubt that the Albanian League disposes of considerable forces, and that in its present temper it may attempt to impede by violent means the projected demarkation of the Servian frontiers. To meet this difficulty Prince Milan's Government intend sending a body of troops, with artillery, to act as an escort to the Commissioners. They go so far as to talk of these officers being able, if necessary, to carry on the work of determining the line of frontier under the cover of whole battalions of infantry deployed in advance of them as skirmishers, and of batteries of artillery posted in favourable positions behind them.

Without in any way calling in question the strength of nerve of the Commissioners, it is not easy to realize how they could properly carry on their scientific labours under such peculiarly trying conditions. If the Albanians are truly in the excited state they are represented, the very appearance of a large Servian force on the extreme frontier would almost inevitably provoke a conflict. In any case, whether the engagement, supposing one to take place, terminated to the advantage of the Servians or of the Albanians, it would interfere sadly with the work of the Commissioners, compromise their position as the Representatives of the Great Powers, and as neutrals, and perhaps expose them to imminent danger of their lives, especially if the Albanians got the upper hand. This scheme, therefore, seems, in my humble opinion, to have very little to recommend it.

However, were the co-operation of the regular Ottoman forces assured, the matter would at once assume a very different aspect. Having first ascertained that a considerable number of Turkish battalions were concentrated at Pristina within a short distance of the frontier in the direction of Vranja, and that the Servian Government would gladly co-operate with them, I ventured, as your Lordship is already aware, to suggest to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople the expediency of proposing some such plan to the Porte. If the line of frontier to be examined by the Commission were in this way guarded by the troops of the two countries on their respective sides, the danger to be apprehended from the Albanians would be reduced to a minimum, and the Commission might tranquilly accomplish its task under their combined protection without, I am persuaded, any risk of collision between them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 270.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 12.)

(No. 180.)
Belgrade, October 4, 1878.

My Lord,

WITHIN the last few days a considerable mass of refugees from Bosnia, principally women and children, have sought an asylum in Servia. Their numbers would have been much greater had it not been for the energetic measures adopted by the Austrian Commanders to cut off their retreat. I will not undertake the invidious task of ascertaining what foundation there may be for the tales current here of the cruelties perpetrated by the Imperial troops, of the many small towns and villages needlessly destroyed, and the number of so-called insurgents shot or hung in cold blood. There is, however, strong reason to fear that in many instances harsh measures have been resorted to, for which it might not be easy to find a justification.

These unfortunate refugees are, I am well informed, in a dreadfully destitute condition, although the Servian Government does everything that can be expected of it to relieve their most pressing wants; but its resources are extremely limited and will soon be utterly exhausted. They are represented to be anxious to return to their homes if they could only obtain from the Austrian Government some assurances respecting their personal security. Now that all organized resistance is virtually at an end, their request might, it would seem, be safely granted; but the Austrian authorities, who have been applied to, show no inclination to facilitate their return, and refuse to give any guarantees as to the treatment that awaits them when they have once more placed themselves in the power of the Imperial forces. Unless something is soon done for these wretched refugees the greater number of them will probably succumb from want in the course of the ensuing winter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 271.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 12.)

(No. 67. Political.)
Bosna-Serai, September 26, 1878.

My Lord,

I BEG to bring to your Lordship's notice the state of misery and poverty to which many Turkish families resident in this country are now reduced, and the urgent necessity of either the Austrian or their own Government providing them with the means of quitting the country or of subsistence during the coming winter. The families I allude to are those of petty civil functionaries now no longer employed; of subaltern officers who have sent prisoners to Austria, and of deceased military officers hitherto in receipt of a small pension from the Turkish Government, but which has not been paid for several months.

They are all Osmanlis, not Bosnian Mussulmans, have no relations in the country, and no means of earning a livelihood. They apply to me incessantly to try and obtain for them the necessary funds to proceed to Constantinople before the winter, when, without assistance, they must inevitably starve, and I have brought the matter on more than one occasion to General Philippovich's notice. His Excellency acknowledges the justice of their claims, and has promised me to take the matter into consideration. I believe even he has written on the subject to Vienna, but in the meantime the season is rapidly approaching when travelling in this country for women and children is, to say the least, a great hardship, and the cost of living here, which has already increased nearly 200 per cent. since the entry of the Austrian troops, continues daily to augment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 272.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 12.)

(No. 1200.)
Therapia, September 27, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 25th instant, I have the honour to state that I have informed M. Onou, in Prince Labanoff's absence, that Major Wilson, the British Commissioner for the delimitation of the Servian frontier, has started for Belgrade, that Her Majesty's Government regret the unavoidable delay which has occurred, and that they would not object to the Commission commencing its labours before his arrival.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 273.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 12.)

(No. 1201.)
Therapia, September 27, 1878.

My Lord,

COLONELS BOGOLUBOW and Philippow, the Russian members of the European Commission for the delimitation of the Bulgarian frontiers, called upon me this morning. They informed me that one of them would be employed for the frontiers of Bulgaria, and the other for those of Roumelia. As the Commission appointed under the Treaty of Berlin was evidently intended for both objects, they asked me whether a similar division of labour would not be adopted by the British Commissioners. I replied that I had no instructions on the subject, and was unacquainted with the views of Her Majesty's Government with regard to it.

They then inquired whether the British Commissioners were placed under my orders, and were to receive instructions from me. I told them that although Colonel Home would no doubt communicate freely with me, he had not been placed under my orders. They said that they regretted this, as it would lead to great loss of time on account of the references that would be necessary to England on disputed points. They were under

the orders of Prince Labanoff, and they were of opinion that all matters which could not be settled by the Commissioners on the spot should be at once decided by the Ambassadors at Constantinople.

I suggested to these officers that they had better communicate on these subjects with Colonel Home, as I did not feel authorized to discuss them.

They expressed their opinion that the delimitation should be executed in three stages:

1. The Commissioners should make a hasty survey of the country, and determine generally the line of demarcation according to the Treaty of Berlin.

2. A careful map should next be made of the country for a certain number of miles on both sides of the proposed frontier, which could be easily done by the Russian topographical staff now in Bulgaria and Roumelia; and

3. The Commissioners should then return and fix definitely the exact frontier line.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 274.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 12.)

(No. 1207. Confidential.)
Therapia, September 30, 1878.

My Lord,

I ASKED Safvet Pasha this morning whether there was any prospect of the Sultan agreeing to the Convention with Austria with reference to Bosnia. His Highness replied that His Majesty still declined to do so, and that after the most mature consideration he had come to the conclusion that His Majesty was right, although he had in the first instance done his best to persuade His Majesty to accept it. The Austrian Government, his Highness said, had so precipitated matters by sending its troops into Bosnia, even before the ratification of the Treaty of Berlin, and before steps could be taken by the Porte to prepare the populations of the province for its occupation, that a state of affairs had been brought about which it was impossible for the Sultan, as Caliph, to sanction by accepting the proposed Convention. By the absolute refusal of Austria to declare that her occupation of the province was temporary and provisional there could no longer be any doubt whatever that she had purely and simply annexed it. Such being the case it would be useless to enter into any Convention, and it would be better to leave matters as they were to take their course. At the same time, he had assured Count Zichy, whom he had seen yesterday, that it was the most earnest desire and intention of the Porte that no interruption whatever should take place in the relations between Turkey and Austria, but that they should remain on the same friendly and intimate footing as before the entry of the Austrian troops into Bosnia.

Count Zichy, whom I saw later in the day, confirmed what Safvet Pasha had told me, but added that he could not conceal from his Highness that the refusal of the Sultan to accept the Convention could not but produce a very painful impression upon the Austrian Government, which had earnestly desired that the occupation of Bosnia should have been effected by a friendly understanding with the Porte, and without giving rise to events which could not but affect the friendly relations hitherto existing between the two countries.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 275.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 12.)

(No. 1208. Secret.)
Therapia, September 30, 1878.

My Lord,

THE Sultan, when I last saw him, invited me to come to him on the second day of Bairam. I accordingly went to the palace yesterday. After I had addressed the customary congratulations to His Majesty on the occasion of this great Mussulman feast, His Majesty expressed to me the regret with which he had learnt on Saturday morning

that Her Majesty's fleet was leaving the Prince's Islands, as it had been his intention to visit it previous to its departure; but the Fast of Ramazan had prevented him doing so. His Majesty was anxious to know whether I had communicated to Her Majesty the message he had sent me, expressing his deep gratitude for the eminent services which she had rendered to himself and his people by sending her ships to Constantinople for their defence, and his warm thanks to the Admiral, officers, and men of the fleet. His Majesty said that he was celebrating the Feast of Bairam when he heard the fleet saluting the Ottoman flag. He immediately sent Ghazi Osman Pasha to the Embassy at Therapia with this message to me, and it was his intention to dispatch him, or some other Pasha of rank, to Artaki, to convey his personal acknowledgments to the Admiral and those who served under him.

I told His Majesty that I had lost no time in transmitting his gracious message through your Lordship to the Queen, and to Admiral Sir Geoffrey Hornby.

It is probable that the Sultan would have visited the fleet had not some of his Ministers persuaded him that, by doing so, he would have displeased the Russians, who would have complained that he had not paid a similar compliment to their army before it left San Stefano.

The Sultan then asked me whether I had seen Kairredin Bey, or, as he is now called, Kairredin Pasha, the ex-Minister of the Bey of Tunis. I replied that I had not. I had reason to believe that the Bey had not called upon me, as he was apprehensive that his motives in doing so might be misunderstood. His Majesty observed that he was very anxious that I should make the acquaintance of Kairredin Pasha, whom he would at once send to visit me.

He had invited the Pasha to Constantinople, His Majesty said, because he had formed a very high opinion of the intelligence and character of the Tunisian statesman, and believed that he might render important services to Turkey. He was especially anxious to obtain the assistance of so eminent a man in introducing reforms into his Empire. He had been in communication, even before his accession to the throne, with the Pasha, and had read what he had written about reforms with great interest. He had directed Safvet Pasha to ascertain whether some employment could not be found for Kairredin Pasha in the public service. As he was not well acquainted with Turkish, he would have to occupy some subordinate post at first, but might ultimately be advanced to a more important one. His Majesty added that Kairredin Pasha might be a useful medium of communication between himself and me, and that he intended so to make use of him.

I thanked His Majesty for his promise to send Kairredin Pasha to call upon me, and I ventured to observe that I highly approved of the step His Majesty had taken in inviting him to Constantinople on two grounds: first, because, from all I had heard of him, I believed him to be an enlightened and liberal-minded man, whose advice would be of use to His Majesty; and, secondly, because I was persuaded that His Majesty was showing true wisdom in bringing into his service new men who did not belong to the class to which the selection of Ministers and functionaries had hitherto been limited, and especially in choosing a statesman apparently enjoying the confidence of the Arabs, who formed so large a portion of His Majesty's subjects.

The conversation then turned upon the departure of the Russians. His Majesty said he thanked God that they had retired from their positions before his capital, but he wished to know my opinion as to whether they would evacuate Adrianople and withdraw, within the appointed time, from the provinces they now occupied on this side of the Danube. His Majesty observed that he had been told that they had no intention of doing so, and that they had made all their preparations for remaining permanently, or for a long time to come, in them. I replied that it was reported that the Russians were violating the Treaty of Berlin by enrolling Bulgarians as a national army for Roumelia, and placing them under the command of Russian officers, and that Prince Dondoukoff Korsakoff and other Russian functionaries had declared that Russia would not comply with the terms of the Treaty of Berlin as regards the organization of the Province of Eastern Roumelia. But I could assure His Majesty that England had no intention to permit a Treaty, into which she had solemnly entered, to be set aside in this fashion. Her Majesty's Commissioner had been authorized to state to every one who held in his presence such language as that attributed to Prince Dondoukoff Korsakoff, that it was the firm resolution of Her Majesty's Government that all the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin should be scrupulously executed.

I thought this a good opportunity of again urging upon His Majesty how important it was that Turkey should, on her part, perform all the obligations imposed upon her by the Treaty, and I expressed my hope that His Majesty had at last found some means of

arriving at a satisfactory arrangement with Austria with regard to the occupation of Bosnia.

I observed that it was the earnest wish of Her Majesty's Government that Turkey should come to a friendly understanding with a Power which might be very valuable to her as an ally, and very dangerous to her as an enemy. I pointed out to His Majesty that when the time came which was appointed by the Treaty for the evacuation by Russia of Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia, it would be of the utmost importance that England and Austria should be united in insisting upon its execution. On this point Russia would be more disposed to listen to two Great Powers acting together than to one of them alone. If Turkey incurred the enmity of Austria she could scarcely expect that Austria would be disposed to take any steps which might provoke the hostility of Russia. I ventured to warn His Majesty that a resolute determination on the part of the Porte not to come to any terms with Austria might lead to a change in the policy of that country very unfavourable to his interests and to those of his Empire, especially if it ended by her coming to an understanding with Servia and Montenegro, and obtaining their co-operation in a further advance into Turkish territories.

The Sultan listened to these and other arguments which I submitted to him with attention, but they made no impression upon him. His Majesty replied, that after what had occurred in Bosnia, it was impossible for him now to accept a Convention with Austria which would sanction her violent annexation of the province and her proceedings towards the Mussulman population. He could not do so, either in his character of Sovereign or Caliph. How could he, as Sovereign, surrender to a foreign Power, without any reason or justification, territories which he had received from his predecessors, and which it was his sacred duty to hand down to his successors? And how could he, as Caliph, deliver over a large Mussulman population to a Christian nation against their wish? He did not fear, His Majesty said, an Austrian advance upon Novi-Bazar, supported by Servia and Montenegro. He was ready to meet all the dangers with which he was threatened in consequence of refusing to accept a Convention which was simply the absolute surrender of his provinces. He was still ready to enter into such a Convention as he had proposed, recognizing his sovereignty, and limiting the period of the occupation. If the Austrian Government refused to do so, he could only allow matters to take their course, and look forward to a time when he could vindicate his rights.

He condemned his Ministers for not having acted with sufficient firmness, observing, that as the Bosnian populations, badly armed, and without efficient commanders, had succeeded in checking the Austrians, and in inflicting very considerable loss upon them, what might not have been done to prevent their entry into Bosnia had they been opposed by his regular troops? However, His Majesty added, notwithstanding his feelings with regard to the Austrian invasion of his territories, he assured me, in the most distinct and positive manner, that he had given no encouragement or support whatever to the Bosnians who had taken up arms to resist it. He had been so scrupulous in the matter, he declared, that when some of his attendants, who were Bosnians, wished to return to their homes to look after their families, he refused to permit them to do so, lest it should be said that he had sent them to join the insurgents. He had pursued the same course with regard to the Albanians, who had sent to him a venerable Sheikh, possessing great influence over them, to ask for his advice and instructions. He had directed this person to inform those whom he represented that it was their duty to submit to the will of their Sovereign and to the Government, who, in agreeing to the decisions of the Congress, had done what it thought best in the general interests of the State, of which it was the best judge. He was determined to continue to discourage and prevent, as far as was in his power, all opposition on the part of his subjects to those decisions, and he was grieved to find that the responsibility of what was occurring in Bosnia and Albania had been thrown upon him.

I begged His Majesty to believe that I had never entertained a doubt as to his sincere desire to execute the Treaty of Berlin, and if I had ventured to warn His Majesty that attempts were being made to throw the responsibility of its non-execution upon himself or his Government, it was with a view to make him aware of a very serious danger. Her Majesty's Government, I said, had given a proof of their confidence in the loyal intentions of His Majesty, and of their conviction that His Majesty was doing his utmost to perform the engagements into which his Government had entered, by refusing to join in a collective Note which it had been proposed by other Powers to address to the Porte, remonstrating against the non-fulfilment of the Treaty. His Majesty replied that he was aware of this, and was truly grateful to Her Majesty's Government. His Majesty repeated that it had been, and still was his firm intention to execute the Treaty, but that there were most serious difficulties in the way of carrying

out all its provisions at once, for which he trusted Her Majesty's Government would make allowance.

I asked His Majesty whether he had not been advised that a military Convention might be entered into by the Porte with Austria for the joint occupation of the Province of Kossova by her troops and those of His Majesty, and that Count Andrassy was disposed, after such a Convention had been concluded, and the Bosnian question settled, to give a formal undertaking in writing to prevent Servia and Montenegro from attacking Turkey, and whether he was disposed to agree to this arrangement. His Majesty answered that he had been informed that a proposal of this kind might be accepted by Count Andrassy, but he had no confidence whatever in Austria. She had constantly broken faith and departed from her engagements. I again urged upon His Majesty the extreme importance of not making an enemy of Austria, upon whose assistance he would have to depend if the time came when it were necessary to insist upon the evacuation of his territories by Russia in fulfilment of the Treaty of Berlin. His Majesty replied that Turkey and England together were quite strong enough to compel Russia to execute her engagements. His Majesty added that he had entered into an alliance with England and into engagements with her which it was his firm determination to execute in every respect, and although the Treaty to which he referred did not apply to his European possessions, he could not but hope that as he was ready to fulfil all the obligations he had contracted by it towards England, she, on the other hand, might give him a general support in defending his Empire.

His Majesty then spoke of the difficulties that had arisen between England and the Ameer of Afghanistan. He said that he had no further knowledge of them than from what he had read in the newspapers; but that he was ready to do anything in his power to assist Her Majesty's Government in the matter. If they thought it desirable that he should do so, he would at once send a secret mission to Afghanistan, choosing for it a capable and trustworthy person, and would, as Caliph, or head of the Mahommedan world, call upon the Mussulmans of that country not to make any opposition to England, and to refrain from following the counsels of Russia. His Majesty said that he had every reason to believe that such a mission as he proposed would not be without effect. All he required of Her Majesty's Government would be that they should insure the safety of his secret Envoy through India to the point on the Afghan frontier which he might indicate. I thanked His Majesty for his friendly offer, which, I said, I would lose no time in communicating to Her Majesty's Government.

After some further conversation upon the finances, the Sultan again expressing his great anxiety that he should obtain the means of withdrawing the caimé, which, he said, was bringing ruin on the country, and upon public matters of minor importance, His Majesty took me into his garden, where I spent a couple of hours with him. He seemed in better health and spirits than I had seen him for some time past. He spoke a good deal about the Queen and her Royal Family, expressing the highest admiration for Her Majesty, and saying that his great object was to govern his people as Her Majesty had done, and to secure them the same happiness and prosperity that the English nation had enjoyed under her reign.

I rarely see His Majesty that he does not dwell on this topic.

I believe him truly desirous of promoting the welfare of his people and of ruling them justly and well. What he requires is experience of affairs, knowledge of the world, and firmness of character to carry out his good intentions. To use a vulgar expression, he does not know "how to set about it," and in his endeavours to do what is right, he often does what is wrong. His correspondence with Kairredin Pasha and his invitation to that statesman to come to Constantinople is an instance, among many, of his real desire to have the advice and assistance of men who are capable of carrying out his views with regard to the good government of his people, and to the introduction of reforms in the administration of his Empire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 276.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 12.)

(No. 1211.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 2, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a note I have received from Safvet Pasha, announcing the appointment of Abro Effendi as Second Ottoman Commissioner for Eastern Roumelia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 276.

Safvet Pasha to Sir A. H. Layard.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, le 30 Septembre*, 1878.

J'AI l'honneur d'informer votre Excellence que Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan a daigné désigner Abro Effendi, Directeur du Contentieux du Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, en qualité de Second Commissaire Ottoman dans la Commission Européenne chargée d'élaborer l'organisation de la Roumélie Orientale.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SAFVET.

No. 277.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 12.)

(No. 1212.) [B.B.]
My Lord, *Therapia, October 2, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of further despatches from Consul Blunt with reference to the charges made by M. Coumoundouros against the Turkish regular troops in Thessaly and Epirus. Your Lordship will find that these charges, like other accusations of the same nature coming from the same source, are either totally unfounded or greatly exaggerated. They are made with the object of influencing public opinion for political purposes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 277.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Larissa, September 25, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 14th instant relative to the conduct of the Ottoman troops in Thessaly and Epirus, I have the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Excellency, copy of a Report on the same subject from Mr. Vice-Consul Blakeney, dated Prevesa, the 7th instant; also the translated copy of a letter from Mr. Spiridion Vassiliadi, the land agent of M. Christaki Effendi Zographos, affording evidence of the good conduct of the Turkish troops, and of the participation of Greek brigands in the late incendiary fires in Thessaly.

M. Christaki Effendi Zographos is a Greek notable of Constantinople; he has extensive estates in Thessaly, whose inhabitants not only took no part in the late insurrectionary movement, but also joined the Turkish troops in defending their villages against the raids of insurgent bands.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 277.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Consul Blunt.

Prevesa, September 7, 1878.

Sir,

YOUR despatch dated Larissa, 31st August, calling on me to furnish you with information on the subject of Mr. Corbett's despatch of the 8th August to the Marquis of Salisbury, reached me late last night.

I have therefore the honour to reply to your despatch by stating that I have no knowledge whatever of the numerous letters which the Christian inhabitants of Epirus have addressed to M. Commoundouros, complaining of outrages committed against their persons and property by the Turkish troops. As to the charge itself, all that I am in a position to state is, that during the late war between Turkey and Russia, and at which time this district was entirely garrisoned by Albanian Redifs and Bashi-Bazouks, several, and perhaps many, cases of robbery, all of which I have duly reported to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, have been committed; but since the end of the war and the introduction to this district of regular troops, not a single complaint, with the exception of one or two almost trifling cases, has, to my knowledge, been lodged against the troops, and, on the contrary, every impartial observer cannot but praise their good behaviour.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 3 in No. 277.

M. Vassiliadi to Consul Blunt.

(Translation from the Greek.)

Larisse, le $\frac{4}{16}$ Septembre, 1878.

M. le Consul,

VOUS m'avez demandé des informations au sujet de la destruction par le feu de "Kishlas"—paturages appartenant a mon maître son Excellence Christaki Effendi Zographos.

J'ai l'honneur donc de vous exposer que les habitants des tchifliks de son Excellence en Thessalie, soit, Zorko, Nehor, Mezjdan, et Paleohor, ainsi que les habitants des autres tchifliks et villages environant ces propriétés sont restés fidèles à leurs devoirs et aux ordres des autorités Impériales; et sur mes conseils, non-seulement ils n'ont pas participé les idées des insurgés, mais aussi à diverses reprises ils se sont opposés armes en main à leurs intentions et projets hostiles contre ces propriétés. Malheureusement à la fin de l'insurrection, plusieurs bandes de brigands se formèrent dans le pays, dont quelques-unes se cargent contre les habitants des susdits tchifliks et villages en les dévalisant quand elles les trouvent seules dans les champs, et en volant leurs moutons et bestiaux. Aussi ces bandes me menacent si je ne leur envoie pas de l'argent; et comme preuve je vous transmets ci-jointe la dernière sommation qui a été adressée tout dernièrement par le Chef brigand, Dimitri Kirkitza, à M. Nicolaki, mon intendant a Zarko, dans laquelle ce brigand menace de brûler la moitié du Kishla (paturage) de cette propriété, ayant déjà brûlé une moitié le $\frac{14}{26}$ Août dernier.

C'est vrai que les troupes militaires qui occupent les susdites propriétés et villages font leur mieux pour protéger les habitants et maintenir la tranquillité, mais comme les repaires de ces brigands sont inconnus et difficile à découvrir, les troupes rencontrent de grandes difficultés à les chasser et les exterminer.

En tout cas moi et tous les habitants du Mezjdan Kol et de Zarko nous sommes reconnaissants au Mushir le Commandant-en-chef pour nous avoir envoyé ces troupes; nous sommes aussi reconnaissants à ces mêmes troupes pour la manière assidue avec laquelle ils tâchent à maintenir l'ordre. Ils se comportent si bien et les habitants sont si contents que nous ne pouvons pas suffisamment exprimer la reconnaissance que nous éprouvons envers eux.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SPIRIDION VASSILLADI.
Directeur des propriétés en Thessalie de son Excellence Christaki Effendi.

The Brigand Chief Dimitri-Kirkitza to M. Nicolaki, at Zarko.

(Translation from the Greek.)

Nous avons reçu votre lettre. Nous avons compris son contenu.

Pour les liras (Turkish pounds) vous nous dites que sans l'ordre de votre maître vous ne nous les donnerez pas; et que vous avez télégraphié a votre maître à Paris.

Apprenez donc que peu nous importe votre maître.

Vous nous écrivez aussi pour les villageois, nous disant qu'ils sont de Chrétiens et que nous ne devons pas les molester. Ne priez pas pour eux, mais pensez a votre sort; et occupez vous de vous-même d'abord et puis des autres car. . . . (Too obscene to repeat.)

Maintenant nous vous informons et nous vous donnons trois jours de grâce. Pensez-y! Car passé ce terme nous brûlerons tout chez vous.

(Signé) DIMITRI-KIRKITZA.

Inclosure 4 in No. 277.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir,

Larissa, September 26, 1878.

MY estimate of the conduct of the Turkish troops in Thessaly, as reported in my despatch of the 14th instant, is confirmed by the Greek Archbishop of Larissa in the accompanying translated copy of a letter which I have received from him in answer to one from me on the subject.

His Reverence is a man of independent character, and by his position as chief of a large community would have been the first to hear and take notice of any serious grievances of the Christians against the Ottoman troops in Thessaly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 5 in No. 277.

The Archbishop of Larissa to Consul Blunt.

(Translation from the Greek.)

M. le Consul,

Larisse, le 24 Septembre, 1878.

AYANT reçu votre lettre je vous réponds que les troupes régulières de l'Empire en Thessalie ont pleinement rempli leurs devoirs; elles n'ont pas molesté les habitants, soit soldats soit officiers supérieurs; parmi les derniers leurs Excellences Muhliss Pacha et Rejeb Pacha se sont distingués par leur capacité et impartialité.

En même temps les irréguliers, Ghegos, Zéibecks, et Albanais avaient discrédité le Gouvernement Impérial et troublé et molesté les habitants.

Voilà ce que je peux vous dire en toute sincérité, et je vous prie, &c.

Le Métropolitain de Larisse,
(Signé) + NEOPHYTOS.

No. 278.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 12.)

(No. 1213.)

My Lord,

Therapia, October 2, 1878.

MR. VICE-CONSUL CALVERT reported to me by telegraph, on the 28th ultimo, that the Russian authorities at Philippopolis had given notice of their intention of requisitioning the houses of foreign subjects for the use of the army, and requested my instructions in regard to the matter. After communication with my French colleague I addressed to Mr. Calvert the despatch of which I have the honour to inclose a copy herewith.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 278.

Sir A. H. Layard to Vice-Consul Calvert.

Therapia, September 30, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE communicated with the French Ambassador on the subject of your telegram of the 28th, and am informed by his Excellency that a few days ago he sent instructions to the French Consul at Philippopolis to the following effect:—That he should do all he could unofficially to prevent the houses of French subjects being requisitioned by the Russian authorities; and that, although he could not absolutely protest against such a proceeding, it was his duty to see that French subjects were put to as little inconvenience as possible, if it were insisted upon.

I have to instruct you to act in concert with your French colleague, and in conformity with the above instruction.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 279.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 12.)

(No. 1214.) [B.B.]

Therapia, October 2, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE, on several occasions, pressed upon Safvet Pasha, in pursuance of your Lordship's instructions, the importance of losing no time in delivering up Podgoritza to Montenegro. I understand that the small fort connected with the place is occupied by Turkish regular troops, but not the town itself. I suggested to Safvet Pasha that those troops might be withdrawn at once, and the Montenegrin authorities invited to take possession. If any resistance were then made by the inhabitants the Porte might, at least, disclaim any responsibility for it.

His Highness replied that it had occurred to him to take this course, but that on further reflection he was disposed to think that it would be better to maintain the troops where they were for the time, as their presence could be used, after the arrangements which the Turkish authorities were now making to induce the inhabitants to surrender the town to Montenegro had been completed, to prevent the opposition of any party that might be found to resist it.

If the troops, his Highness said, were to evacuate the fort at the present moment it would at once be occupied by the Albanians; and, if the Montenegrins attempted to take possession of it, a struggle would in all probability ensue, which might lead to grave consequences, and prevent the peaceable settlement of the question.

Prince Labanoff informs me that Safvet Pasha has used the same arguments in speaking to him on the subject.

His Excellency did not admit or deny their validity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 280.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 12.)

(No. 1215.)

Therapia, October 3, 1878.

My Lord,

CONSUL BLUNT having requested me to allow Colonel Synge, with whose services in Thessaly and Epirus he expresses himself highly satisfied, to remain some time longer with him, I have consented to his request, subject to your Lordship's approval. Colonel Synge's intimate acquaintance with the country and knowledge of the people render him a very useful man, in the present critical circumstances, to act with Mr. Blunt. As soon as the Porte commences the organization of the gendarmerie he will return to his duties in that corps, to which he belongs, and of which, as far as I have been able to judge, he is, perhaps, the most efficient British officer.

In consequence of the departure of Vice-Consul Suter from Volo on leave, and the importance, at the present moment, of having some one at the place to protect British subjects and interests, and to give trustworthy information, I have directed Mr. Longworth to proceed thither at once, and to consider himself under Mr. Blunt's orders. It is, in my opinion, very desirable that Mr. Borrell, who had been left in charge of the Vice-Consulate by Mr. Suter, should not remain in this position, on account of his well-known partizanship and that of his family for the Greek cause.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 281.

Sir A. H Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 12.)

(No. 1216.) [B.B.]

Therapia, October 3, 1878.

My Lord,

THE "Tirakir," an Armenian newspaper published at Constantinople, states that five or six months ago a subscription was raised to a considerable amount in Russia, to help and encourage the rising in the Kozan district, of which the despatches from Consul Henderson and Vice-Consul Gatherall contain some particulars. The "Sirakir" adds that it is not acquainted with the means by which the money thus obtained has been sent to Kozan.

I am not in a position to say that the statement made by this journal is trustworthy, but, as I have already informed your Lordship, I learnt some time ago that Russian agents were endeavouring to provoke disorders and insurrection in parts of Asia Minor inhabited by Armenians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 282.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 12.)

(No. 1218.) [B.B.*]

Therapia, October 4, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches upon matters of interest in their respective districts, which have been addressed to me by Her Majesty's Consuls and Vice-Consuls at Larissa, Salonica, Angora, Sulina, Philippopolis, and Gallipoli.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 282.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Larissa, September 21, 1878.

Sir,

IT seems that pirates have recently made their appearance in the Gulf of Volo.

Mr. Borrell, who acts as Mr. Vice-Consul Suter's agent and correspondent at Volo, writes to me as follows, under yesterday's date, in answer to my inquiries on the subject:—

"It is perfectly true about the piratical boat which appeared in the Armyro waters. The pirates were Sarakatchan brigands, fourteen in number, armed with chassepots, who succeeded in seizing a boat, and cruized in the port of Armyro with the intention of seizing a certain Angheli Apostolides, one of our wealthy merchants, who had gone to Armyro on business, and was expected to return to Volo by sea. They were disappointed, however, as their intended victim had put off his return to Volo. The pirates arrested another boat, on board of which were a few poor passengers, from whom they took the money they had on them, besides a bag of cheese. Since then

* With Inclosures 1, 4, and 6 only.

we have not heard of any more of these brigands. There is now a Turkish gunboat constantly cruizing in all directions in the Gulf of Volo."

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 282.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Larissa, September 24, 1878.

Sir,

ON the 22nd instant I telegraphed to your Excellency my having heard, from a good source, that the Porte intends to send a further force of forty battalions to Thessaly and Epirus. I am now informed that the provincial authorities here and at Janina have been directed to prepare and lay in supplies for these expected troops; that contracts for the delivery at Larissa and Volo of 500,000 okes of biscuit have already been made; that the produce of this year's tithes of wheat and barley, which has been collected in kind in both provinces, is to be made over to the military magazines; and that the Commander-in-chief has requested the Porte to prohibit the exportation of grain from Thessaly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 282.

Acting Consul Barker to Sir A. H. Layard.

Salonica, September 27, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that a British merchant steamer, "Armenian," came here the day before yesterday from Constantinople, having on board 800 Circassians, refugees, and soldiers returning to their homes.

Four hundred were landed here; then the master entered a protest in my office against the shippers at Constantinople, and refused to proceed with the remainder of the passengers to Mersine, Tripoli of Syria, and Beyrout.

I applied to the Governor-General for an officer, and his Excellency immediately deputed a military officer to take charge of these people and keep them in order, and the vessel left yesterday evening for her destination.

Hydayet Bey, *alias* St. Clair, has returned here from Cavalla in the Austrian steamer, but without Mr. Pagot. I have not been able to learn with what intent, except that it be he wishes to go to Therapia "to converse with your Excellency on some very important business." He will probably await the passage through this port of a British merchant steamer, because the Messageries have refused to take him, and he is afraid of the Russians at Dédéagatch.

There is a report here that the two Albanian clans, the "Tosks" and the "Gheghas," have fallen out and are divided in counsel. The Gheghas reproach the Tosks with having murdered Mehemet Ali Pasha, who came on a mission from the Sultan, with whom the Gheghas declare they are in amity and united in interests. There has already been some fighting among them, and it is anticipated that, after the Bairam Feast be over, there will be open war between the two clans.

This Turkish festival is about to be held here with every prospect of tranquillity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 4 in No. 282.

Vice-Consul Gatheral to Sir A. H. Layard.

Angora, September 21, 1878.

Sir,

I BEG to acknowledge with thanks receipt in course of your despatch of the 13th ultimo, and it gives me much pleasure to learn that the details furnished with reference to the extension of the Ismid Railway have met with Lord Salisbury's approval.

On the 14th ultimo I had the honour of forwarding all the information to hand regarding the disturbances in the Develü region, to the south-east of this province; and on Monday, the 16th, some additional details having reached me, I telegraphed you as under:—

"Forwarded, Saturday, 14th, despatch regarding Develü disturbances, which will reach you on Thursday. Subsequent details as under. Rebellion now extends from Sis on the south to Azizié on the north-west; from Marash on the east to Everek on the west.

"Cozanoglou Ahmet Pasha has deposed the Mutessarif of Sis and Kaimakam of Hadjin, and other officers of the region. At Hadjin abolition of Nizamié law has been proclaimed, Sheriat being substituted. Several Deribeys have sent in their adhesion to Cozanoglou, including Chief of Ayshar Kurds."

The above telegram I now confirm. The only additional news to hand is by telegram, that on Tuesday last, the 17th ultimo, Cozanoglou's band, requisitioned in the neighbourhood of Develü, seizing all available mules, horses, grain, &c. Zea Pasha, the Vali of Adana, has telegraphed this Government that he is without supplies for the troops being sent against the insurgents, and that rice, butter, &c., must be forwarded forthwith. As the Porte has not yet replied to any of the numerous telegrams sent on the subject, this local Government in turn takes no notice of the Pasha's demand.

The popular excitement with regard to this movement is rapidly increasing in this neighbourhood, particularly amongst the Moslem populace, and I regret to notice several cases of insult and violence to Christians; such disorders have been unknown for a year. The post from the disturbed regions arrives on Mondays, and, should my correspondents send me any fresh details, I shall not fail to communicate with you by wire. With reference to such telegrams, I would remark that I am compelled to forward them in plain English, and have no copy of the Code. When last in Constantinople I was honoured with your instructions to apply to Hon. W. N. Jocelyn, Secretary of Embassy, for a copy, but though I did so three times by letter I received no reply. Such telegrams are, of course, subjected to scrutiny, and copies of them sent to the Grand Vizier and Minister for Foreign Affairs before being sent to the Embassy; sometimes, indeed, they are suppressed altogether.

Were I supplied with a copy of the Code, this would be entirely obviated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GAVIN GATHERAL.

Inclosure 5 in No. 282.

Vice-Consul Stokes to Sir A. H. Layard.

Suliná, September 25, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE now the honour of reporting to your Excellency as follows:—

On Monday the 23rd instant the Russian Brigadier, General Zalatzsky, arrived here with a corps of 500 men, and it is rumoured that he will most probably stay here during the winter.

Dr. Mincovitch, a Bulgarian, formerly in the Turkish service, has been appointed Civil Governor of the town, and entered upon his functions yesterday.

Dr. Malezinn, formerly Ottoman Director of the Sanitary Department, has again taken charge of the office on behalf of the International Sanitary Commission.

A very serious epidemic now exists among cattle and sheep in this vicinity, numbers of them dying daily.

Her Majesty's ship "Cockatrice," Commander Musgrave, arrived to-day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) O. STOKES.

Inclosure 6 in No. 282.

Acting Vice-Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Philippopolis, September 22, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that I had a very interesting conversation yesterday with M. Matalas,* my Greek colleague, who has just returned to Philippopolis, after a three months' leave of absence.

He told me that, having read the recently-published Reports of Mr. Acting Consul Calvert, of Adrianople, in which it was stated that the Greeks of that district had joined the Bulgarians in persecuting the Turkish population, he had tried to ascertain for himself whether Mr. Edmund Calvert's information was correct, or whether the latter gentleman's good faith had been imposed upon by some designing persons. M. Matalas had an opportunity of making inquiries on this subject during his journey hither from Constantinople.

At every station on the line he made a point of entering into conversation with Greek peasants. The fact of his being a Greek himself awakened their confidence. In the majority of cases they freely admitted that they had indulged their animosity towards the Turks. The wilder spirits among them had committed murders and outrages. At one place they said, "See, we have turned the mosque of the Turks into a church." But in all cases they complained bitterly of the Russians, who, they said, had encouraged and instigated them to oppress the Turks, and were now preparing to withdraw and leave them alone to square matters with the returning Turkish population. They said that the Russians had encouraged them to ill-treat the Turks by hinting that, if they did so, the Turks would all quit the country, which would then be left exclusively to the Christians, who would come into possession of the lands and houses of their Turkish neighbours.

M. Matalas learned that near Soufili, on the Maritza, the Turks and the Christians were now perpetually fighting and murdering each other at every favourable opportunity. Most of the Turks live on the right bank, and the Christians on the left bank, of the river; and the Turks there have lately got arms into their possession, arms given, it is asserted, by the Russians. The other day they fired across the river at some Christians of Soufili, and killed two men. The Christians made complaint to the Russian Governor of Ortakeui, which is a town of 1,200 houses; and the Governor advised them to cross over and capture the guilty Turks. On their remarking that the Turks would probably resist, he said, "Then kill them; arm as many men as can carry guns, and kill them all if you like." The Christians of Soufli were too prudent, it appears, to follow this advice.

At Ortakeui a deputation of the leading Christians† waited on the Governor lately, having heard that the Russian troops were about to retire, and asked him what they were to do in that case. The Governor first advised them to send in a petition to the Porte asking for protection to be afforded to them by means of regular troops as soon as the Russians retired, and to send a copy of the petition to the Greek Legation. "Russia," he said, "wished to liberate you and all the other Christians; but England, backed up by Europe, has chosen to oppose the Czar's benevolent intentions, and we cannot resist all Europe."

The deputation retired, and, after consulting among themselves over the advice of the Governor, their rustic cunning suggested to them that the Governor was only laying a snare for them, "to find out whether they were really not better disposed towards the Sultan than the Czar." They accordingly returned to him the next day, and declared that they had no true protector but Russia, and that it was useless for them to appeal to the Porte. Then the Governor advised them to address their petition to the Russian authorities at Adrianople, which they did.

My Greek colleague says that some 150 such petitions have already been presented at Adrianople, and that on the withdrawal of the Russians one of two things will happen. Either the Christian population will pack up their chattels and accompany the Russians in their retreat, or they will rise in insurrection against the Turkish authorities. M. Matalas is inclined to think that they will choose the latter course, as they will be supplied with arms, and secretly encouraged with promises of eventual assistance by the Russians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

* N.B.—Omit M. Matalas' name in Blue Book.—S.
† Greeks.

P.S.—I learn that a concentration of Russian troops has begun to take place at Küstendil. Only 4,000 troops are reported to have been collected there up to the present, but a further concentration there is reported to be preparing.

F. R. J. C.

Inclosure 7 in No. 282.

Vice-Consul Odoni to Sir A. H. Layard.

Gallipoli, le 1er Octobre, 1878.

Excellence,

J'AI l'honneur de vous informer que, cette nuit, le cuirassé Turc "Hifzi Rakman" et le petit transport "Cartal" sont partis pour Rodosto avec deux bataillons d'infanterie. Un autre bataillon et quelques hommes de cavalerie partiront demain pour la même destination.

Sept compagnies d'infanterie sont parties ce matin pour former un cordon le long du littoral jusqu'à Maïtos pour empêcher les déserteurs, qui sont nombreux, de passer en Asie par le moyen d'embarcations.

Quatre mille hommes passent aujourd'hui en Asie pour aller couper le bois nécessaire pour la construction de baraques aux lignes de Boulair pour l'hivernage des troupes, comme aussi le bois de chauffage nécessaire pour les mêmes troupes, les hôpitaux, &c.

On m'a informé, hier, que quelques troubles ont eu lieu à Myriophito, près de Charkeui, entre les habitants Turcs et les Rayas. Quelques Cosaques qui se trouvaient à Charkeui, sont immédiatement partis pour Myriophito, qu'ils venaient d'évacuer le jour avant. On prétend qu'il y a eu des morts. D'autres versions disent qu'il n'y a eu que quelques blessés.

Je constate, avec plaisir, que l'on se prépare à prendre des mesures pour éviter les collisions entre les Rayahs et les réfugiés Turcs qui retournent dans leurs foyers. Il est à désirer que les Circassiens ne reviennent pas de sitôt en Roumélie. Les quelques Circassiens qui se trouvent dans le Caza de Maïtos commettent chaque jour des vols.

Le Gouverneur, Rechad Pacha, vient de recevoir un télégramme d'Enos qui l'informe que plusieurs Bulgares armés ont fait feu sur des Turcs pendant qu'ils faisaient leur prière dans une mosquée et en ont tué trois. Ils se sont ensuite rendus à la maison d'une des victimes où ils ont tué un certain Dueu et ont enlevé tout ce qu'ils ont trouvé. Après le fait les autorités Russes auraient arrêté plusieurs de ces Bulgares.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) A. ODONI.

No. 283.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 12.)

(No. 1220. Confidential.)

Therapia, October 4, 1878.

My Lord,

I BEG to inclose copy of a private letter addressed to me by Ghazi Moukhtar Pasha, which may have some interest for your Lordship. I am glad to hear that his Excellency has shown a conciliatory spirit in dealing with the Cretan National Assembly, and I earnestly hope that a satisfactory arrangement will be come to with it, which may lead to the pacification and future good government of the Island of Crete. I have told him that I have given him, and will continue to give him, all the support I properly can in bringing about this result.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 283.

Moukhtar Pasha to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Particulière.)
M. l'Ambassadeur, *La Canée, le 11/23 Septembre*, 1878.

JE regrette qu'une sérieuse indisposition m'a empêché de vous écrire immédiatement après mon arrivée à la Canée. Puis des occupations multiples, des préoccupations non moins nombreuses, des allées et venues continuelles à Chalépa, lieu de réunion de notre Commission, les négociations suivies interminables avec les Délégués de l'Assemblée Générale sont de nature à m'excuser auprès de votre Excellence pour le retard dans l'accomplissement de ce que je considère comme un devoir.

Votre Excellence a certainement appris le point où en est arrivée l'entente avec les Délégués de l'Assemblée Générale. Vous avez pu constater des progrès réels faits dans les voies d'un arrangement. Ainsi plusieurs des demandes de l'Assemblée ont été élucidées, précisées, et modérées, conformément aux droits souverains et aux principes généraux de politique de notre Empire.

Cependant nous procédons lentement, péniblement. Je n'ai pas besoin de m'étendre sur les causes de ces lenteurs regrettables, votre Excellence connaissant si bien la situation est suffisamment édifiée sur les difficultés que nous créent les provocations et machinations oiseuses des meneurs qui voient avec inquiétude, et un mécontentement franchement affiché, approcher le moment de la pacification de l'île.

Je constate avec regret dans nos réunions journalières l'effet pernicieux de ces menées insensées. Telle demande de l'Assemblée qui, après des longues et pénibles discussions, est écartée ou modifiée du consentement des Délégués, est de nouveau remis sur le tapis par ceux-ci sous une forme d'autant plus exorbitante que nos intentions leur paraissent plus conciliantes.

Lorsque nous discutions la question sur la composition des Tribunaux et des Conseils Administratifs, MM. les Délégués ont accepté le mode de solution que je leur proposais.

Ils m'ont assuré que cette question ainsi que toutes les autres qui formaient l'objet de leurs demandes ne feraient pas l'ombre d'une difficulté si leurs vœux relatifs aux élections de l'Assemblée Générale proportionellement au nombre des deux éléments Chrétien et Musulman étaient exaucés.

Or le jour où je leur ai laissé entrevoir la possibilité de l'acceptation de cette demande, ils ont formulé celle de la nomination d'un Vali Chrétien Orthodoxe, et ils ont voulu revenir sur la question des Conseils Administratifs, en la présentant sous une nouvelle forme.

Sans me décourager de ce que ces demandes renferment d'exorbitant et d'inacceptable je m'efforce par tous les moyens possibles de conciliation de hâter le moment d'un arrangement définitif.

Mr. Sandwith, votre Consul à la Canée, m'a accordé avec beaucoup d'empressement son précieux concours. Il travaille activement pour faciliter l'œuvre de la pacification. J'avoue cependant qu'au milieu des intrigues dont j'ai fait mention sa tâche est très-difficile, et que pour agir efficacement et correctement il lui faut redoubler d'attention et de vigilance.

Il nous importe surtout au suprême degré de donner un terme le plus tôt possible à cette malheureuse affaire. La population Musulmane de l'île endure des souffrances inouies. Le cordon militaire a pour elle des effets ruineux. Privés de leurs biens, séparés de leurs terres et de leurs fermes, ils voient avec une anxiété indescriptible approcher le moment de la récolte.

Les Chrétiens auprès le cordon assure une impunité dangéreuse ont commencé à battre les oliviers de leurs compatriotes Musulmans absents dans les villes, pour en récolter à la hâte le produit, en même temps qu'ils les ruinent et les détruisent.

Les malheureux Musulmans crient que c'est là l'achèvement de leur ruine, car leurs oliviers et la récolte de cette année-ci étaient leur dernière planche de salut.

Vous voyez, M. l'Ambassadeur, combien la situation est parsemée de périls, et combien une solution est urgente.

En soumettant à la haute appréciation de votre Excellence les nombreux inconvenients qu'aurait pour le Gouvernement Impérial, et l'atteinte que porterait à ses droits souverains, un engagement pris de sa part pour la nomination d'un Gouverneur-Général Gree-Orthodoxe, j'aime à espérer, connaissant les vues personnelles de votre Excellence en cette matière, que vous voudrez bien m'accorder votre précieux appui pour le règlement de cette question.

J'ai pleine confiance dans la haute sagesse et l'initiative éclairée de votre Excellence,

et j'espère que par votre bienveillant concours plus d'une difficulté sera applanie et des nombreux obstacles seront écartés.

Je prie, &c.
(Signé) GHAZI AHMED MOUKHTAR.

No. 284.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 12.)

(No. 42.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 28*, 1878.

YESTERDAY Prince Tzeretelew called with Colonel Schepeleff, who was dressed in his military uniform.

I told them I was very glad to see them, and that I hoped our labours would end satisfactorily; that I had come with the most conciliatory intentions, thus carrying out the wishes of Her Majesty's Government.

Prince Tzeretelew then opened out the old story of having preliminary non-official meetings at some Embassy or other—the six without the Turks.

I said that I would only meet a meeting of the seven Commissioners, and at a Turkish house, whether the meeting was official or non-official; and I said that I thought, considering that we were in Turkish territory and that Turkey had not been the conquering party, he could yield on this point. This he did.

He then raised the question of the house. It was not to be at the Porte, for this was too far from Buyukdéré; it must be somewhere half-way on the Bosphorus. If so, it was not to be on the Asiatic side, but the European side, that we might go there by carriage and not by boat.

In fact, his arguments were so strained and so eager, not to say comic, that while endeavouring to prevent myself smiling, I looked up and saw Colonel Schepeleff struggling with the same difficulty.

As a compromise, I suggested that the Porte should be asked to send a steam-launch for us, and this was accepted.

Prince Tzeretelew then argued that as we had determined to have Protocols and not *Comptes-rendus*, at all events, the first meeting for preliminaries should not be recorded in a Protocol. My belief is, that the Russians wish to have the opportunity of making some proposal or using some language which they do not desire to go forth in an authentic form.

The point, which at first sight is a trivial one, has been so much worked and insisted upon, both at Philippopolis and here, that there must be something more serious to justify this anxiety.

I said that I did not see why the first meeting should be different from any other, but that in this I would yield to the wish of the majority. I made use of this word to see how the sound of it was accepted, and it immediately produced a cessation of the controversy.

On their going away, I said to Colonel Schepeleff that I hoped our relations would be pleasant, in any case our personal ones, and they both left with civil expressions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 285.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 12.)

(No. 43.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 28*, 1878.

ARRO EFFENDI called on me yesterday to tell me he was appointed Second Commissioner for the Porte. I have known him many years.

He is a man of great ability, and was a protégé, like many other orthodox Armenians, of the late Fuad Pasha, having begun his career under Reschid Pasha.

I had a long conversation with him, explaining to him generally my views, in the same tone as to Caratheodory Pasha and Parnis Effendi at Vienna. In the course of our

conversation Parnis Effendi, who is a friend of Abro Effendi, called, and they both expressed themselves satisfied with the objects I had in view.

Abro Effendi has promised to work with me cordially, and I trust a good deal in his acuteness and ability.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 286.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 12.)

(No. 44.) [B.B.]

Therapia, October 1, 1878.

My Lord,

YESTERDAY took place the first sitting of the Commission. I telegraphed to your Lordship at length on this subject.

Before the sitting, which took place at the house of the Grand Vizier, his Highness came into the room and made a short speech of welcome, stating that the object of the Porte was to consult the happiness of the people of Eastern Roumelia, to soften the bitterness (*rancune*) that exists among the population, and to establish a form of government calculated to guarantee their freedom and happiness. A project, he said, was being prepared by the Porte, which would shortly be presented to the Commission.

A somewhat long discussion ensued, caused by a proposal of the Russian Commissioner that the Turkish Commissioner should be President for five sittings, and afterwards that the presidency should be taken alternately by the Commission in alphabetical order.

It was finally decided unanimously that the Ottoman Commissioner should be President so long as the Commission sat at Constantinople, but that an "alternat" should begin when the Commission went to Eastern Roumelia.

Three Secretaries were appointed:—

M. Rozet, an Attaché to the French Embassy; M. Alexander Isvolskey, Secretary of the Russian Consul-General at Philippopolis, and a third to be nominated by the Turks.

It was decided to keep the records of the Commission by Protocol.

The German Commissioner then proposed that no petition should be received by the Commission except when unanimously admitted by its members; that no petition should be received the prayer of which was contrary to the Treaty of Berlin. This was supported by the Russians, and was, I gathered, intended to show a spirit of conciliation on their part. A Committee was named for the examination of petitions, consisting of Prince Tzeretelew, M. Contouly, and Lord Donoughmore, to which the Turkish Commission will add one.

Prince Tzeretelew then produced a paper, which he read, a copy of which is inclosed, which led to considerable discussion, the Ottoman Commissioners and myself reserving the right to discuss it at the next meeting.

I then asked the Commission whether we had not proceeded in a somewhat irregular manner by not verifying our powers, and I produced my commission, as well as Lord Donoughmore's. The Turks apologized for not having theirs, which they would produce at the next meeting, but it transpired that neither Prince Tzeretelew nor M. de Braunschweig had any powers at all.

M. de Braunschweig contended that he did not require powers, and the Russians rather supported him, and that the notification to the Powers of his appointment, which, by the way, is *à titre provisoire*, was enough. Abro Effendi, who had been concerned in the Lebanon Commission, declared that on that occasion all the Commissioners had powers; and I see that on the Bucharest Commission, in 1856, the Commissioners were termed in the Protocols Commissioners Plenipotentiary.

I said that the form of power was one which depended on the precedents of the Government delegating the Commission.

My commission and Lord Donoughmore's were signed by Her Majesty as Queen and Empress. M. de Ring and M. Contouly were appointed by a Presidential Decree; M. de Kallaij and M. Vernon, by letters from their Governments. Some sort of document emanating from the Sovereign or Government of the respective Commissions seemed to me indispensable; I did not think even a letter from an Ambassador sufficient.

The question seemed to me all the more essential, as Prince Tzeretelew had raised a doubt as to the qualifications of the Turkish Commissioners.

The discussion was adjourned to the next meeting.

M. de Ring in a speech, a copy of which is inclosed, gave notice of a motion respecting the finances of Eastern Roumelia. On this point, I am told, the Russians are prepared to yield. Colonel Schepeleff said he would be prepared, on the next occasion, to give us information on the subject, as well as on what had been done in the way of civil administration. M. de Ring said that this would be useful *à titre d'information*.

The next meeting is fixed for Thursday, at the house of Assim Pasha, at Stamboul.

I am sorry to say that his Excellency is not quite well.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 286.

Paper read by Prince Tzeretelew.

L'ARTICLE XVIII du Traité de Berlin stipule un accord entre la Porte Ottomane et la Commission Européenne pour l'élaboration de l'organisation de la Roumélie Orientale. La Porte ayant désigné deux Délégués au sein de notre Commission a manifesté par là son intention de prendre part à nos travaux et d'exprimer par l'organe de ses Commissaires l'accord mentionné par le Traité.

Il nous paraît donc évident que le vôte des Délégués Ottomans sera obligatoire pour la Porte dans la même mesure que celui des autres Commissaires pour leurs Gouvernements respectifs et que la Commission, ayant une fois terminé ses travaux, elle ne pourra plus être appelée à reprendre ou à remanier son œuvre.

Inclosure 2 in No. 286.

Speech by M. de Ring.

JE prie M. le Président de vouloir bien me donner la parole pour développer une motion tendant à nous procurer des éléments d'information dont nous avons besoin pour aborder une partie importante du travail qui nous est confié.

D'après le Traité de Berlin, Messieurs, la Commission de la Roumélie Orientale est investie d'un mandat complexe. Elle est chargée, d'une part, d'élaborer des lois organiques, réglant l'administration ainsi que le régime judiciaire, financier, militaire de la nouvelle province; d'autre part, elle est appelée à contrôler l'administration qui fonctionnera en Roumélie Orientale jusqu'au jour où l'organisation prévue par le Traité de Berlin entrera en vigueur; car si on lui déniait cette attribution, il dépendrait de l'Administration Provisoire, quelle qu'elle fût, de rendre d'avance notre œuvre illusoire; enfin la Commission doit elle-même faire acte d'administration en prenant en main la gestion des finances Rouméliotes.

Cette dernière partie de notre tâche en sera peut-être la plus épineuse. J'aurais voulu pour ma part qu'elle nous fût épargnée. Mais l'Europe en a jugé autrement. Or, il ne nous appartient ni d'amender ni de critiquer son œuvre. Notre mission se borne à l'appliquer, en nous inspirant de l'esprit de justice et de conciliation dont les Ministres et Ambassadeurs des Puissances se sont montrés animés à Berlin.

Pour organiser immédiatement, sous notre autorité, un service financier en Roumélie, trois combinaisons se présentent.

La première consisterait à remettre en fonctions les organes chargés de cette branche de l'Administration publique avant la guerre.

La seconde consisterait à prendre au service de la Commission les agents institués par l'autorité militaire Russe.

La troisième enfin consisterait à organiser un personnel mixte avec le concours de financiers expérimentés, sans couleur politique, et offrant à l'Europe aussi bien qu'aux populations intéressées de sérieuses garanties.

Permettez moi, Messieurs, d'examiner rapidement avec vous chacune de ces trois combinaisons.

Celle que j'ai indiquée en premier lieu, me paraît, je n'hésite pas à le dire, impossible à appliquer. Le personnel Turc qui administrait avant la guerre les finances des contrées dont le Traité de Berlin a fait la Roumélie Orientale, est détruit ou dispersé. S'il pouvait être reconstitué, les agents dont il se composerait rencontreraient auprès des populations un mauvais vouloir de nature à les entraver à chaque pas.

La seconde combinaison, celle que l'on pourrait peut-être appeler la combinaison Russe, se présente en apparence comme la plus simple, la plus pratique. Néanmoins elle soulève également des objections. D'abord rien ne prouve que les employés Russes qui se trouvent actuellement à la tête des finances Roumélioles consentent à passer du service de leur pays au service de la Commission. Puis sans suspecter la loyauté de ceux qui se prêteraient à notre désir, n'aurions-nous pas à craindre que, par la force de l'habitude, ils ne continuassent à chercher des inspirations auprès de l'autorité militaire dont ils relèvent aujourd'hui? et cette tendance naturelle et même respectable dans son principe ne pourrait-elle pas engendrer des conflits? Je ne veux pas m'appesantir davantage sur ce sujet; je me borne à le signaler en passant à vos réflexions.

Reste la troisième combinaison, celle qui consisterait à appeler à notre aide des financiers neutres, estimés et expérimentés qui exerceraient en Roumélie, sous notre contrôle, un personnel où l'élément indigène trouverait la place qui lui est légitimement due. Cette combinaison, Messieurs, serait à mon avis la meilleure. Reste à savoir si elle est réalisable. En ce moment je n'en sais rien encore. Pour nous en assurer je vous propose de nous mettre sans délai en relations avec le premier établissement financier de l'Orient—la Banque Ottomane, et de déléguer à cet effet un d'entre nous. J'ai formulé par écrit la motion que je vous ai annoncée au commencement de mon discours. Avant de vous en donner lecture je répéterai encore qu'elle tend uniquement à nous procurer des éléments d'information, et que son adoption n'engagerait pour l'avenir le vote d'aucun des Commissaires.

En voici les termes.

Inclosure 3 in No. 286.

Notice of Motion by M. de Ring.

LE Commissaire du Gouvernement Français a l'honneur de soumettre à l'approbation de la Commission pour la Roumélie Orientale la motion dont la teneur suit:

La Commission Européenne délègue un de ses membres pour se mettre en rapport avec les Directeurs de la Banque Impériale Ottomane à l'effet d'étudier les conditions auxquelles cet établissement financier se chargerait éventuellement dans la Roumélie Orientale de percevoir sous le contrôle de la Commission les contributions directes et indirectes, ainsi que les revenus des propriétés de l'Etat, d'en encaisser le montant, et d'opérer, après ordonnancement par la Commission, les paiements qui seraient à la charge de la province.

Il est d'ailleurs entendu qu'au cas où un arrangement de cette nature serait conclu, la Banque Impériale Ottomane ne pourrait employer aucune somme encaissée par elle, ni à des opérations de banque, ni au règlement de ses comptes avec le Gouvernement de la Sublime Porte.

Il est également entendu que cet arrangement avec la Banque Ottomane ne préjugerait pas les décisions à prendre par la Commission Européenne d'accord avec la Sublime Porte pour l'organisation définitive du régime financier de la nouvelle province,

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No. 287.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 12.)

(No. 45.) [B.B.] *Therapia, October* 1, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose an extract in duplicate from the "Phare du Bosphore," reproducing an article from the "Maritza," giving the words of an Address stated to have been presented to Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Philippopolis, and protesting against the separation of Eastern Roumelia from Bulgaria. The special importance attaching to this article arises from the fact that the "Maritza" is the

recognized official organ of the Russians at Philippopolis. A short time ago a paragraph appeared in the same paper to the effect that armed bands were to be stationed along the railway to prevent the approach of the European Commission.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 287.

Extract from the "Phare du Bosphore" of September 24, 1878.

PROTESTATION DES BULGARES.—Le journal la "Maritza," paraissant à Philippopoli, a publié une adresse présentée au Consul Anglais par les Bulgares de quelques districts situés au sud des Balkans, pour protester contre la décision du Congrès de Berlin concernant la Roumélie Orientale. Nous traduisons cette protestation, que nous trouvons reproduite dans les journaux Russes:—

"Excellence,

"Dès le commencement du Congrès de Berlin, on disait dans les journaux que la Bulgarie devait être divisée sur la proposition de l'Angleterre, mais nous n'attachâmes pas d'abord une grande importance à cette nouvelle. Aujourd'hui que la décision du Congrès a été officiellement publiée, nous en sommes consternés; nous avons appris en effet que notre pays, exclusivement (!) peuplé de Bulgares de race pure, doit être séparé du reste de la Bulgarie sous le nom de "Roumélie," et qu'on lui donnera une sorte d'autonomie douteuse imaginée par l'Angleterre. Nous voyons avec étonnement l'attitude actuelle de la nation Anglaise, qui en 1876, à l'occasion des massacres dont nous avons été victimes pendant six mois, a prêté son concours aux Bulgares souffrants. Et dans quel but a-t-on fait tout cela!

"La sympathie que nous a témoignée le peuple Anglais n'est pas en harmonie avec les actes du Gouvernement Anglais, lequel s'efforce constamment et par tous les moyens de nous maintenir en état de servitude, et de nous imposer de nouveau le joug intolérable du Gouvernement Turc, qui nous traite en bêtes fauves depuis cinq siècles, et dont Dieu lui-même vient de nous délivrer par la main de son point, le seul Tsar ami des hommes sur toute l'étendue du globe terrestre, Sa Majesté Impériale, notre libérateur, Alexandre II. Nous sommes surpris des louanges décernées à l'Angleterre par certains journaux et gazettes, au dire desquels l'Angleterre porte partout, même dans les contrées les plus lointaines du monde, la liberté, les lumières, et la prospérité. Elle porte ces bienfaits, à ce qu'il paraît, dans des pays rarement visités par les Européens; mais ici, au cœur de l'Europe, on ne lui voit faire rien de pareil, et les procédés de ses Ministres révèlent une tendance diamétralement opposé.

"Comme un grand prêtre sacrificateur Lord Beaconsfield a immolé la Bulgarie à Berlin, sur l'autel du veau d'or Britannique. L'Angleterre assourdit le monde entier de ses cris éternels de 'nos intérêts! nos intérêts!' comme si les autres nations n'avaient pas aussi leurs intérêts, comme si toute l'humanité n'était là que pour servir les intérêts Anglais. Nous n'ignorons pas que Lord Beaconsfield a résolu (sans doute dans une intention bienfaisante) de détruire la nationalité Bulgare; son plan, conçu de longue date, est de la réduire en pièces et il commence aujourd'hui à l'exécuter. La nationalité Bulgare est déjà coupée en cinq morceaux: la Principauté Bulgare, la Roumanie, la Serbie, la Province Bulgare autonome et enfin la Bulgarie encore soumise aux Turcs.

"Nous élevons la voix pour protester hautement contre l'injuste décision du Congrès de Berlin, et nous déclarons ne pas pouvoir ni l'accepter ni courber la tête en présence des tentatives de l'Angleterre pour nous ruiner comme peuple. Nous ne pouvons pas nous soumettre de nouveau à la domination Turque. Sachez donc qu'il sera difficile d'effacer la nationalité Bulgare de la face de la terre, en créant cette appellation mensongère de Roumélie. Non! notre nationalité se défendra jusqu'à la dernière goutte de son sang, plutôt que de retomber sous la domination Turque. Il faudra donc que de nouveaux torrents de sang coulent dans notre malheureuse patrie dévastée.

"Nous avons l'honneur de prier votre Excellence de vouloir bien soumettre une copie de notre protestation au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine d'Angleterre, en la remerciant pour tout le bien qu'elle nous a fait.

"*Philippopoli, le* 31 *Juillet*, 1878."

No. 288.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 12.)

(No. 46. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 1, 1878.*

ABRO EFFENDI called on me last night to talk over the morning's sitting. He was very much annoyed at the decision respecting the Presidency, and said I ought to have insisted on the permanent presidency being given to the Turks.

I told him that I had thought it better to settle the question without a division, in which we should probably have been beaten, or at any rate have arrayed some votes against us which would generally be given in our favour. He then told me he was charged by the Grand Vizier to discuss with me the appointment of a Governor-General. The Grand Vizier was opposed to it, as the Governor-General would have no authority to support him, and would then be placed in a humiliating position.

He wanted the Commission to obtain for itself the administration of the province, and having completed its work to hand the Government over to the new Governor-General.

I replied that the Porte and the Commission must act in strict conformity with the Treaty of Berlin. The Treaty did not stipulate that the Commission was to govern the province, but it did lay down that the Porte was to appoint a Christian Governor-General. When he was appointed the Russians in the first place were bound to support his authority. This, Abro Effendi said, they would never do.

I replied that we could not act on anticipation or assumption. Do what you have undertaken to do by Treaty, and if Russia then refuses to act in the same manner the responsibility will rest with her, and not with you or with us. At the present time she has a full right to urge the plea that Turkey had not availed herself of her rights, or performed her engagements. Suppose that Russia said—though I did not think it probable—that she was ready to give up the civil administration of the province, to whom could she hand it over? Your man is not ready; your gendarmerie and your militia are not ready. The Commission is not by Treaty charged to undertake the Government. The longer you delay carrying out your duty, which is to organize a Government for the province, the longer will Russia have a right to prolong her administration.

He then asked whether it would not be the most practical plan for the Commission to go to Philippopolis, organize the Government, the gendarmerie, and the militia, and then hand over the whole to the Governor-General. I answered that the question was not what was most desirable, or practical, but what the Treaty laid down. The Treaty said that a Governor-General was to be appointed. It further said that the Sultan was to name the officers of the militia and gendarmerie. These corps could only be formed by the officers being appointed. We could not appoint them. The Governor-General was the chief officer of both corps. He should be named at once, and so should a sufficient number of officers. They should be at Philippopolis to let us know in our financial arrangements what would be the budget they required. As I said before, if any impediment were thrown in their way the Porte would not be to blame. He then asked me what I thought would be the power of the Governor-General during the labours of the Commission. I answered that the powers of the Governor-General did not depend on our decisions.

It was the limitation of those powers that depended on us. He has an independent existence under the Treaty, and if we are unable to agree upon the limitation to be applied to his powers, he will have those which naturally belong to a Governor-General, whatever they may be. I added on my own behalf, that if the Porte named a Governor-General at once, and wished to do so in a conciliatory manner, she might intimate to the Powers that, as the Commission was charged with the financial administration, the Porte might intimate, as a sign of good will, that during the sittings of the Commission, and until it has made its report, the Governor-General would consult it on the general administration of the province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 289.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 12.)

(No. 47.) [B.B.]
My Lord, *Therapia, October 3, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a further despatch from Lord Donoughmore, dated Philippopolis, 27th September.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 289.

Lord Donoughmore to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(Confidential.)
Dear Sir Henry Wolff, *Philippopolis, September 27, 1878.*

IT will perhaps be convenient, and of some slight service in the future, if I endeavour to summarize my general impressions as to the present condition of the different races composing the population of Eastern Roumelia, and submit briefly what appear to be the effect and objects of the policy the Russian authorities have been and are now pursuing, both in the new province itself and in that part of the remainder of the Adrianople vilayet with which I have had the opportunity of becoming acquainted.

The races I have had the most frequent opportunities of observing are the Turkish, the Greek, and the Bulgarian. These three number amongst them nearly the entire population of what is now called Eastern Roumelia.

Taking them in the order named, the Turks may be considered, in the year 1875, as representing something more than 35 per cent. of the entire population. As I have pointed out to you in a previous letter, they have since been reduced by nearly one-half, and in the present condition of their homes, and under the treatment they are being subjected to, with the prospect at the same time of the severe cruelties usual in this country before them, another half of the surviving will in all probability succumb. If it were the result of the late war, and of it alone, I should hesitate before drawing your attention to the condition in which these people are. In time of war such a state of things as I have witnessed here may at all events be condoned, if not satisfactorily accounted for; but it is at a time of profound peace, when the country is in the occupation of a civilized Power, that the malpractices which have mainly led to place the Turks in their present position are daily and hourly permitted. I have confined myself in my correspondence with you to one or two statements of fact, which appeared to me sufficient to point out the actual condition of things and the bent of policy there, but many more have already found their way into official statistics, through authoritative and trustworthy channels. With these at your hand I need not advance any further instances or proofs of the means which have been adopted to render the state of the Turks of Eastern Roumelia what it is—one of almost absolute destitution, with the prospect of almost total annihilation.

The position of the Greeks, though infinitely preferable to that of the Turks, is also an unenviable one. Admitted to but a very limited share in the Government, indeed to so small a share that it may be counted for nothing, they are tolerated, and nothing more, by the authorities, so long as they do not put themselves forward; but should any Greek gentleman assert himself at any moment, and raise his voice either in support of his own claims or those of his compatriots, or on behalf of his ill-used Turkish fellow subjects, he becomes an object of suspicion at least, if indeed he is not actually coerced into silence. The Government require bail for Turks of a certain standing, as a security against their leaving the town, and for their good behaviour while in it, and I know of occasions where Greek gentlemen, having offered themselves as sureties, were subjected to abuse and bad language in consequence. At the same time, the protection afforded them for their property is most inadequate.

The Greeks represent in this district by far the larger portion of the trading interest, and some of them are proprietors of mills and factories about the country. Instances have occurred in which these places have been plundered with impunity by roving bands of Bulgarians, and only a few days ago a mill at Dörmendéré, belonging to M. Gumushguerdan, a leading merchant, was ransacked and burnt down in broad daylight by one of these parties, and I have been unable to learn of any attempt to bring the offenders to justice.

Again, as regards matters of religion, you are no doubt aware that there are a certain number of Bulgarian-speaking Christians who, notwithstanding the establishment of the Exarchate, remained faithful to the ecclesiastical authority at Constantinople. These are claimed, and they have always admitted the claim themselves, as part of the Greek population of the province. Every sort of attempt, however, is being made by the Bulgarian authorities to separate these people from the Greek community. They insist in designating them as Bulgarians, and returning them as such in their records of the population, while intimidation and other means are used to divert them from their original allegiance.

Great indignation exists among the Greek community on account of the following incident, which is only one of a series:—

It is only a few days ago a leading Greek of Deirmendéré, a large village containing a mixed population of Bulgarians and Greeks, was accused by a Russian Colonel of preventing his people from joining the Bulgarian Church, and was threatened with Siberia on the part of the Russian authorities in consequence. At the same time strenuous efforts are being made to get hold of the separate endowments of the Greek Church for "State purposes," which really means to take them from their proper owners and convert them into Bulgarian institutions.

As regards the state of the Greek peasantry in the Vilayet of Adrianople—in the more immediate vicinity of the line of railway from that place to San Stefano—it appears that they are in a singularly uncomfortable position. They complain that, owing to Russian advice they have, during the last few months, been committing excesses, and otherwise maltreating the repatriated Turks; and now, that there is a prospect of the evacuation of the country, are beginning to feel nervous as to their own safety. It appears that they were advised by the Russian authorities to petition the Porte for troops to protect them on the retirement of the Russian army, but they looked upon this as merely a feeler on the part of the Russians to discover their real sentiments, and ultimately forwarded petitions to Adrianople in favour of the Russian troops remaining in the country, which was exactly what it was intended they should do.

In contrast to the Turks and the Greeks at the present moment is the position of the Bulgarian population. They may be said to be in the full enjoyment, not only of every privilege, but of every licence, and each, according to his taste, position, and education, avails himself to the fullest extent of the advantages which lie to his hand, while the more educated classes are in the fullest way represented in the Government, and divide many of the most important offices amongst them. The town classes enjoy the privilege of being able, should they so desire, to murder, rob, pillage, and burn without the probability of ever being called to account; in fact they are the entire masters of the situation, the spoiled children of the Russian authorities, who, while making use of them for their own purposes, protect them and support them in every way, and at the same time keep alive and active the feeling that, on their departure, all these good things will cease, and the evil times of 1876 come back again worse than ever. How they have used, or rather abused, their power there is ample evidence to show, something much worse than mere "isolated incidents." I think, however, you will agree with me, that some allowance may be made for a people suddenly turned loose upon those at whose hands they had suffered terrible and atrocious things. It is not the conduct of the Bulgarians who appeared to me so much to be reprehended as that of the Russian authorities, which permitted, indeed sanctioned and encouraged, this extravagant spirit of revenge, instead of having used their power and influence to restrain it within as narrow limits as possible.

But all this is the result of the determination of the Russian authorities to secure three objects at least during their sojourn here. These are—

1. To exterminate the Turks.

2. To Bulgarianize the country at the expense of the other religious sects and nationalities; and,

3. To create such a feeling in the Bulgarian mind as to render a satisfactory end to the labours of the Commission most difficult, if not impossible.

In pursuance of these objects they have proceeded with a wanton disregard of justice and equity, and of the solemn engagements into which they have entered. The effect of their policy up to the present time has been such as I have described, and shows itself in the condition of the different races and creeds in the provinces. What it will be in the immediate future is of the greatest importance, as bearing upon the result of the Commission. It appears to me most essential that, before the meetings are held at Philippopolis, quiet should be secured in the provinces by the establishment of an adequate police force; otherwise I cannot but augur badly as to the effect of those

feelings to which I have alluded, and which, I fear, we cannot hope will be assuaged until the influence which creates them is removed.

I cannot conclude this correspondence without recording my strong appreciation of the valuable assistance I have received from Mr. F. Calvert, the Acting Vice-Consul here, during my stay. He has been most indefatigable in his efforts to obtain authentic information on every point of importance and interest.

I am also indebted to Mr. E. Calvert, Acting Consul at Adrianople, for his co-operation and assistance.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) DONOUGHMORE.

No. 290.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 12.)

(No. 48.) [B.B.]
My Lord, *Therapia, October 4, 1878.*

AT the sitting of the Commission yesterday I proposed two motions of which I inclose copies.

The resolution as to the powers having been adopted, I will not return to the question, except to say that in my mind some danger does exist from the absence of proper powers. I trust my anticipations will not turn out correct; but there is so much mystery in the manner of the appointment of the German Commissioner, that I cannot be without apprehensions about it.

A question then arose which to me appears of the first importance.

Your Lordship will see in my despatch No. 44 of the 1st instant, that M. de Ring had given notice of a motion for one of our body to be delegated to confer with the Imperial Ottoman Bank on the organization of the finances of Eastern Roumelia. This proposal I had understood was generally accepted, when, to my astonishment, Colonel Schepeleff read a paper proposing to add to the Ottoman Bank some other financial institutions, and this proposal M. de Ring seemed disposed to accept.

To the proposal, and to all amendments evading the principle at issue, I gave my strongest dissent, for the following reasons:—

In the first place, your Lordship is aware, from Sir Henry Layard's despatches, that Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff refused to acknowledge the right of the Imperial Ottoman Bank to establish itself at Philippopolis, and expressed some opinion that it should be ready to become a succursale of a new Bank of Bulgaria.

By my reading of the Treaty of Berlin, Eastern Roumelia is still a province of the Empire which is to remain placed under the direct political and military authority of the Sultan. I maintain that, by these words, concessions and charters, granted by the Sultan before the war, still hold good in the province, and I also contend that any weakness on a point of this kind would seriously compromise a principle which will be constantly recurring and cropping up in our discussions. In that of yesterday the second Russian Commissioner more than once dropped words which cut at the very root of the question, and repudiated the continued validity of any acts of the Sultan previous to the late war.

I have only one copy of the Act of Concession of the Bank resulting from Conventions signed in 1863 and in 1875. The points which seem to me of importance are chiefly those of 1875; and the more so, as one reason alleged against their admission was that the Bank had never exercised its rights.

Your Lordship will be enabled to understand the general outline of the privileges granted to the Bank from the following extracts:—

Article 6. (1875.) . . . "La Banque s'entendra avec le Gouvernement pour établir des succursales au siége de chaque vilayet de l'Empire."

Same Article. "La Banque sera représentée de droit par un de ses Administrateurs ou Directeurs dans la Commission du Budget."

Article 12. (1863.) "Le Gouvernement s'engage à n'émettre aucune espèce de papier-monnaie pendant la durée de la Concession, et à n'autoriser l'établissement d'aucune autre banque ou établissement ayant pareil privilége."

Article 13. (1875.) "La Banque remplira les fonctions de Trésorier Payeur-Général de l'Empire. . . . . Le Gouvernement s'engage à verser dans les caisses de la Banque à l'exclusion de tout autre établissement, tant à Constantinople que dans les provinces, tous les revenus quelconques de l'Empire à quelque titre et sous quelque forme

qu'ils soient perçus. . . . . Le Gouvernement s'oblige à prendre toutes les mesures nécessaires pour faire que la totalité des revenus de l'Empire soit versée dans les caisses de la Banque. . . . La Banque, à l'exclusion de tout autre établissement. . . . sera chargée du paiement de toutes les dépenses publiques effectuées à quelque titre et sous quelque forme que ce soit, tant à l'intérieur de l'Empire qu'à l'étranger, dans les limites des prévisions et des ressources budgétaires."

Your Lordship will be able to obtain a copy of the statutes of the Bank in London. I venture to call your Lordship's attention to this point, as, although the Commission is charged to prepare a new financial system, I do not conceive it competent to ignore rights already acquired, or to set aside a State institution already in existence, so long as it is disposed to co-operate with the Commission on terms approved by that body.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 290.

Notice of Motion by Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

APRÈS le dépôt et l'examen de ces diverses pièces, la Commission, sur la proposition de Sir H. D. Wolff, déclare que les pouvoirs dont ses membres ont été munis en qualité de Commissaires lui paraissent équivalents, et que, dans les limites fixées par le Traité de Berlin, elle considère tous les Gouvernements représentés dans son sein comme engagés au même titre par les signatures de leurs Délégués respectifs.

Inclosure 2 in No. 290.

Further Notice of Motion by Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

SUR toute question on procédera à la votation.

L'unanimité sera décisive.

La majorité sera également décisive dans tous les cas où la minorité est disposée à l'accepter.

Dans tous les cas la votation amènera la clôture de la discussion.

On ne reviendra pas sur les décisions prises, excepté dans le cas qu'un des Commissaires croit que la décision soit contraire aux stipulations du Traité de Berlin.

Dans ce cas la Commission ne renouvelera pas la discussion de fond, mais seulement sur la question de la conformité au Traité de Berlin.

No. 291.

Colonel Home, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 12.)

(No. 10.)
My Lord,

Royal Hotel, Pera, September 30, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated Foreign Office, the 19th September, 1878 (No. 11), covering despatches from Mr. White, Consul-General at Bucharest, relative to the claim of the Roumanian Government for the delimitation of the boundary between Bulgaria and Roumania as soon as possible.

I have ascertained that the majority of the Commissioners consider that, at this advanced period of the year, it is advisable to begin with the delimitation of the boundary referred to. But as the Commission has not yet met, it is impossible to express a positive opinion as to how the votes may go. The French Commissioner, Major Le Moine, has expressed himself to me strongly on the justice and advisability, from many points of view, of assigning Silistria to Roumania.

I have pointed out to him that the Commission has not been assembled to determine a boundary so much as to delimitate on the ground a boundary that has been already determined on by the Berlin Congress; and that, in my opinion, for the Commission to assign Silistria to Roumania would be certainly *ultra vires*.

The despatch from Mr. Adams, No. 688, covered by your Lordship's letter, No. 9, shows that Roumania has been making strong recommendations to the French Govern-

ment on this subject. I have the honour to request your Lordship's instructions on this question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. HOME.

No. 292.

Colonel Home, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 12.)

(No. 11.)
My Lord,

Royal Hotel, Pera, September 30, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the substance of a cypher telegram that I addressed to your Lordship in answer to one received on the 28th.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. HOME.

Inclosure in No. 292.

Substance of Telegram from Colonel Home, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.

Royal Hotel, Pera, September 28, 1878.

SHOULD it be requisite to survey the Roumelian boundary, Gordon should bring survey-astronomical instruments.

It appears to me that any attempt to delimitate the Roumelian boundary before the Russian evacuation will produce trouble.

If your Lordship considers it advisable to delimitate the Roumelian frontier this winter, or rather to begin that work, Major Gordon should start at once. Little work is possible this year.

If I am to act as Commissioner for Roumelia, I shall require powers. Please telegraph answer to last telegraph.

No. 293.

Colonel Home, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 12.)

(No 12.)
My Lord,

Royal Hotel, Pera, September 27, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the substance of a telegram which I have this day addressed to your Lordship in cypher.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. HOME.

Inclosure in No. 293.

Substance of Telegram from Colonel Home, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.

September 27, 1878.

THE Bulgarian Boundary Commission has not yet held its first meeting. The Turkish feast of Bairam and fast of Ramazan are given as the reasons for this delay. I think that the Austrian and French Commission, perhaps the Italian, will be on our side.

The Russian Commission is desirous of beginning work near Samakow. Apparently he desires to embroil the Commission with the bands of insurgents now in the Rhodope Mountains, or to obtain an excuse for extending the sphere of action of the Russian troops to the south.

I hope to get Commission to complete the Dobrudscha boundary the first. What part does the Government of Roumania take in delimitating the boundary line? Please give me your Lordship's instructions on this point by telegraph. The decision your Lordship may arive at will affect the question of beginning at the north-eastern and Dobrudscha boundary.

Will the Government of the Principality north of the Danube send an Agent to represent them?

My colleagues have powers to act both as Commissioners for Roumelia and Bulgaria. Should my powers be similar?

The boundary of Eastern Roumelia should not be begun until Russia evacuates the country; otherwise there is sure to be a collision between the Russian escort and the insurgents.

No. 294.

Colonel Home, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 12.)

(No. 13.) [B.B.]

Royal Hotel, Pera, September 30, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch, No. 9, dated the 17th September, covering despatch from Mr. Adams, No. 686, with three inclosures.

In the Memorandum that M. Cogalniceano has laid before Lord Lyons as well as the Austrian Foreign Office, two propositions are laid down:—

1. That it is almost impossible to make a bridge across the Danube near and to the east of Silistria; that the bridge must be at Silistria itself.

2. That the boundary line must extend from the Danube to Mangalia in a practically straight line, and that the frontier must not be bent north to Kusghun.

As regards the first of these propositions, I submit that the change proposed, by which the boundary between Bulgaria and Roumania would include Silistria, is an alteration in the Treaty of Berlin, and one which, until the Treaty be modified, is entirely beyond the competency of the Boundary Commission.

As regards the second proposition, it would appear that the Congress at Berlin determined two points, viz., a point to the east of Silistria, near the town, and Mangalia, on the Black Sea, leaving to the Boundary Commission to trace the actual line.

Under these circumstances, I submit that the proper boundary is the shortest, and, consequently, the straightest line the Commission can draw, due regard being paid to local boundaries and properties.

As these points will be raised almost as soon as the Commission meets, I venture to request that your Lordship will be good enough to inform me whether the opinions herein expressed meet with your approval.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. HOME.

No. 295.

Colonel Home, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 12.)

(No. 15.) [B.B.]

Royal Hotel, Pera, October 1, 1878.

My Lord,

IN the course of conversations which I have held with my colleagues, the question has been raised as to whether that portion of the frontier of Bulgaria which is common to both Bulgaria and Servia should be delimitated by the Bulgarian Commisson or by the Servian Commission?

The frontier referred to is that described in the last paragraph of page 19 of the Parliamentary Paper (Turkey, No. 38, 1878). This frontier (it is stated, page 20) "shall be fixed on the spot by the European Commission, on which the Signatory Powers will be represented."

The frontier is again described, on page 27, as a portion of the Servian boundary. My colleagues take very different views on this subject, and are seeking instructions from the Governments they represent. The question does not appear to be one of grave importance. So much time has been lost already, that I am very anxious, when the Commission meets, that there may be as few references as possible, and that as few delays as possible may intervene between the meeting of the Commission and the practical work in the field: I therefore venture to request your Lordship's instructions on this subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. HOME.

No. 296.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 12.)

(No. 491.)

Athens, October 1, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 476 of the 6th ultimo, I have the honour to report that the Commission to buy horses in Turkey has returned to Athens without obtaining any, as they found that the animals offered for sale by the Russians were worthless.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 297.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 12.)

(No. 492. Confidential.)

Athens, October 1, 1878.

My Lord,

HOBART PASHA arrived here on the 28th instant, and was yesterday received by the King at an audience granted to him to deliver letters from His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to His Majesty.

Hobart Pasha has informed me that the "King seemed very much hurt at his treatment by England." The Admiral "recommended mild measures." The King said "he would do his best, but all does not depend on him."

The result of the impression Hobart Pasha obtained during his audience is that "if Greece gets nothing, war and revolution in Greece is inevitable."

I have thought it right to report to your Lordship in his own words what Hobart Pasha communicated to me.

In the opinion he expresses as to the extremities to which Greece will have recourse in the event of not obtaining the additional territory which the Porte was recommended by the Congress of Berlin to cede to her I entirely concur, as I have already informed your Lordship in former despatches; they can only be prevented by strong external pressure being brought to bear upon this Government.

Should, however, the Greek Government refuse to embark in a war with Turkey, in which they can hardly expect to be successful, serious internal disorders may be apprehended.

The popular feeling in Greece is, that if the present state of uncertainty is prolonged much longer the finances of the country will be ruined, and that it is preferable to risk a war with Turkey than submit to this extremity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 298.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 12.)

(No. 184. Political.)

Bucharest, October 5, 1878.

My Lord,

IT is fully a week since the Chambers have met, but they have held but few sittings, and nothing important has been done.

M. Bratiano, the Prime Minister or President of the Council, only returned to Bucharest last night after an absence of many weeks, occasioned by his weak health.

The Government intend to-day asking the Chambers to give a decisive vote, "un vote pur et simple," accepting the obligations on the fulfilment of which the Powers have made the recognition of Roumanian independence depend.

A warm discussion is expected, but there exists no doubt of a vote in accordance with the avowed wishes of the Prince and his Ministers, and that by a large majority.

In the Senate it is feared by the Government that they will meet with greater difficulties on account of the Dobrudscha, as Prince Jon Ghika and his friends are of opinion that the annexation of the Dobrudscha ought to be refused in a positive manner,

and are trying to prove that it is a gift from Russia which is sure to entangle Roumania in all kinds of dangers and perilous connections if it is accepted.

As Prince Ghika is the most uncompromising adversary of the Russian Alliance in this country, his opinion may exercise some influence on those who are unfriendly to the present administration and have no decided view of their own.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 299.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 12.)

(No. 186. Political.)
Bucharest, October 5, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Lordship the copy of a letter addressed to Her Majesty's Consul at Galatz by Messrs. Carnegie, shipowners, in which they complain of the inconvenience occasioned to them and other persons navigating the Danube in consequence of the Russian military authorities at Rustchuk not allowing their pontoon bridge on that river to be opened except once in the twenty-four hours, about noon.

I have likewise the honour to inclose the copy of a letter I have addressed to Mr. Consul Sanderson in reply to the above communication which he referred to me.

I have no means whatever of making even unofficial representations to Russian military authorities, especially on the other side of the Danube, and by writing to Her Majesty's Consul at Rustchuk, I have done the only thing it was possible for me to do in this matter, but perhaps your Lordship will consider it possible to have the matter brought before the Imperial Foreign Office. I fear, however, that if the Austro-Hungarian Government have hitherto not succeeded in getting this grievance removed, there is not much chance of its being done before next winter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 299.

Messrs. Carnegie and Co. to Consul Sanderson.

Galatz, October 1, 1878.

Sir,

WE beg to bring the following facts to your notice, in reference to the opening and closing of the Russian bridge between Rustchuk and Giurgevo:—

Our tug-boat "Linnet" arrived from Lompalanka at Rustchuk, on her way to Galatz, at half-past 3 P.M. of the 28th ultimo, and was detained there until 1 P.M. of the following day, on account of the bridge having remained closed the whole time.

We need scarcely point out that if the course is pursued of only opening the bridge once in twenty-four hours, and that at no fixed hour of the day, the losses by delay may come to be very serious, more particularly where it may be of importance that grain should reach Galatz or Ibraila so as to form part of a cargo of a particular steamer, and we are led to make this representation in the belief that if the circumstances be brought to the notice of the competent Russian authorities, they will take measures to remedy the inconvenience which is at present experienced, and give instructions that the bridge be opened at least twice a-day.

We are, &c.
(Signed) CARNEGIE AND Co.

Inclosure 2 in No. 299.

Consul-General White to Consul Sanderson.

Bucharest, October 5, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 3rd instant, inclosing a copy of a letter addressed to you by Messrs. Carnegie, of Galatz, with reference to the inconvenience experienced from the practice of the Russian military

authorities opening the bridge at Rustchuk only once a-day for the purpose of letting boats pass, instead of twice a-day at least, as necessary for the convenience of navigation.

I have to request you to inform Messrs. Carnegie, in reply, that I regret very much that there is no competent Russian authority at Bucharest to whom I could apply on any subject touching beyond the limits of Roumania.

The proper authority under whom the bridge at Rustchuk is, would be General Todleben, at Adrianople.

The Austro-Hungarian Government has, no doubt, quite as great an interest in obtaining a remedy to this inconvenience, and, if I am correctly informed, it has made representations on the subject, but it appears hitherto unsuccessfully.

I have written to Sir Henry Elliot at Vienna, asking his Excellency to inquire what further action that Government proposes taking in this matter, and I have likewise written to Her Majesty's Consul at Rustchuk begging him to speak about it to the military authorities at that place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 300.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 12.)

(No. 187. Political.)
Bucharest, October 5, 1878.

My Lord,

ALTHOUGH I do not attach much importance to the influence of sympathies and antipathies of military men on the general policy of a country, still it cannot be denied that the views of this class of persons in Russia have of late years been a tolerable indication of the ruling passion of the day, and quite in harmony with the tone of the Russian press and of the Slavonic Committees.

During the last few weeks any one coming in contact with Russian military men may have noticed how little pains they took to conceal even to strangers their delight at the difficulties the Austrians were meeting with in Bosnia, and I daresay that their disappointment at the dispersion of the insurgents in that province will be very considerable.

Though the Austro-Hungarian Government contributed greatly to the successes of Russia by their perseverance in a benevolent neutrality, they have not secured the gratitude of the Russian people, and it is evident to every observer that sooner or later that Empire may have to experience a simultaneous aggression on the part of Italy, Russia, and of the new Principalities of Montenegro, Serbia, and Bulgaria, unless she succeeds in curbing in time the Panslavistic influences in the latter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 301.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 12.)

(No. 709. Confidential.)
Vienna, October 7, 1878.

My Lord,

CARATHÉODORY PASHA, after being kept some six weeks without an intimation whether the Porte would or would not enter into a Convention respecting the Austrian occupation, has at last received instructions conveying, in a manner apparently intended to be studiously offensive, the refusal of the Sultan to conclude any such arrangement.

He has by direction of his Government communicated to Count Andrassy two telegrams, the one containing a formal protest against the occupation and the manner in which it has been carried out by the troops, who are represented as having committed atrocities that exceed all that could be imagined, pillaging and burning towns, massacring women and children, and throwing sick and wounded Turkish soldiers out of the windows of the hospitals, with declarations that such dogs were not fit to remain in buildings with men. The second telegram stated that in face of the treatment experienced by his subjects from the Austrians the Sultan must decline to enter into any Convention with their Government, even if it should contain a recognition of his authority and define a

period for the duration of the occupation; but it closed with the perhaps ironical expression of a hope that, notwithstanding this decision, the relations of the two Governments may be maintained on their previous friendly footing.

If these documents at all resemble the description given to me of them, which I have above repeated to your Lordship, they could not have been better contrived if the object had been to strengthen the hands of the enemies of Turkey in this country; and even amongst the Hungarians, who have been latterly showing so much hostility to the occupation, the accusations against the conduct of the troops, consisting largely of their own countrymen, cannot fail to give rise to a general feeling of indignation against the Turkish Government.

Count Andrassy received the communication as he was on the point of going to Hungary, where he will remain some days, and I did not see him after it was made; but I understand that, although his first movement was one of irritation, he soon perceived that his own position towards the Hungarian opposition, which is attacking him for not having made a Convention with Turkey, would be decidedly strengthened by it; for, as his Excellency pointed out to Carathéodory Pasha, the cruelties which the Porte now alleges as a reason for not agreeing to a Convention could not have been the motive that withheld it from doing so two months ago, and the absence of such an agreement can, therefore, be represented as entirely the fault of the Sultan's Government.

There can unfortunately be little doubt that the system adopted by General Philippovich towards the Mussulman population has been harsh and tyrannical; but it seems little probable that he can have tolerated in his troops such excesses as those attributed to them by the Porte, and which would be destructive of all discipline.

The only direct evidence we possess respecting the conduct of the troops is that given by Colonel Gonne, who bears high testimony both to the discipline enforced by the General to whose corps he was attached, and to the naturally humane bearing of the soldiers, and in framing such an indictment against the Austrian army the Porte must be supposed to have some object in view, but what that object is, and what it hopes to gain by it, I am at present unable to perceive.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 302.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 12.)

(No. 712.)
My Lord,

Vienna, October 8, 1878.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch No. 501 of the 25th ultimo, giving the substance of a telegram from Safvet Pasha showing the difficulties attending the cession of Albanian territory to Servia and Montenegro, and pointing out the injustice of accusing the Porte of encouraging them.

Having, as directed by your Lordship, inquired whether a similar telegram had been communicated to Count Andrassy, I have been informed by Baron Calice that this was done about a fortnight ago, and that the telegram was considered to be an answer to a remonstrance which Count Zichy had been instructed to make at Constantinople against the non-execution of the Treaty.

I may take this opportunity of mentioning to your Lordship, that in consequence of the frequent allusions made here to the backwardness of the Porte in evacuating the territories to be assigned to Servia and Montenegro, I requested Mr. Gould to inform me which of the districts to be annexed to Servia were still held by the Turks; and when I learnt from him that there were none so held by them, but that the Servians, on the contrary, continue to occupy territory that is to be restored to Turkey, I could not refrain from remarking upon the readiness with which Turkey was, without inquiry, assumed to be in the wrong, and upon the good ground that your Lordship had for declining to take part in a joint remonstrance without further information.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 303.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 12.)

(No. 713.)
My Lord,

Vienna, October 9, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the inclosed despatch, which has been addressed to me by Lieutenant-Colonel Gonne, Military Attaché to this Embassy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 303.

Major Gonne to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir,

Vienna, October 4, 1878.

ON the 30th September I reported my intention of returning to Vienna at the head-quarters of the 5th Army Corps at Brod—Field-Marshal Remberg, the Commandant of this corps, also acting as Commanding Officer of the army of occupation, and is assisted by Field-Marshal Philippovich; Chief of the Staff, General Cornaro. I had no excuse for remaining longer with the Austrian army, and must take this opportunity of expressing regret that circumstances have limited my sphere of utility. As your Excellency is aware, the Austrians were from the first averse to the presence of foreigners, and the favour shown to me has not been accorded to my Vienna colleagues. I found that obstacles were placed between me and Serajevo; in point of fact, I was only at liberty to report on the movements of the 3rd and 5th Corps. I joined the former, and learnt something from what I saw and heard at the head-quarters of Count Szapary. From my Reports your Excellency has doubtless understood that the Austrian leaders exaggerated the difficulties to be overcome. The least formidable of these obstacles was the insurgent force in the field. The Mahommedan insurgents are without knowledge of modern warfare, and are not even skilled in the use of improved fire-arms, which were placed in their hands during the Christian rising of 1876. Small bodies of the Sultan's troops, for the most part Albanians, were constrained to or willingly opposed the Austrian invasion, and formed a kind of nucleus around which the unsophisticated fanatical element rallied, but events proved that skilled officers were wanting. At first it looked as though a strategical genius prompted the effort to cut off supplies from the main army operating against Serajevo, but the Bosnians took no advantage of their success, which resulted rather from instinct than reason; there has been no unity of purpose, so the various bands of armed patriots have fallen an easy prey to the overwhelming force of Austrians poured into the country regardless of cost.

Considering the state of financial affairs in Austria, it was to be expected that economy would be practised; and considering the nature of the roads and difficulties of communication, the best economy was to place a limit on the armed strength penetrating the country; strong forces might have been held in reserve on the frontier, but flying columns suggested themselves as the proper description of offensive warfare. As the insurgents were to all intents and purposes without artillery, guns were only requisite to besiege fortresses. The columns which actually began the campaign were armed in accordance with regulation, except that mountain batteries took the place of the divisional artillery. Field-Marshal Philippovich set the example of bombastic despatches, which first gave the War Department a false notion of the resistance to be overcome, and when Count Szapary lost over 1,000 men in protecting his long line of train in the bush a kind of panic seized the military chiefs.

I am not afraid to assert that half the numerical strength of Austrians in Bosnia would prove a non-efficient working force. The supplies could be kept up with ease, and the lines of communication might present an appearance of soldierlike order in place of the disreputable confusion which met my eye. The original four divisions of real and not sham service strength, and so distributed as to maintain a reserve on the Save, were quite equal to the task in hand. Then no time ought to have been lost in forming gendarmerie and in constructing barracks. A contract ought to have been at once signed for the formation of road and railway. At this moment only a few huts are constructed at Serajevo, and the narrow-gauge railway is being constructed. No contract has been completed for the construction of a high road (30th September).

The troops left little to desire, but, after giving them their due, I am unable to

report favourably on any part of the occupation proceedings except that which concerns the relations of the troops with the inhabitants. Of all that came under my notice in this latter respect I can report most favourably; but I did not, nor was I permitted, to visit Serajevo, where the Commander-in-chief seems to have established more or less a reign of terror.

I look upon the Mahommedan rising as annihilated, since, on all sides, the Mahommedans seek safety in flight over the frontier; and I am convinced that neither Servia nor Montenegro has taken part in the organization of resistance. The rising has been purely Mahommedan, instigated by the Beys and religious fanatics. I doubt whether the latter class will ever become peace-loving Austrian subjects, but the bulk of the Mahommedans will accept their fate, and must needs tolerate the elevation of their former Christian servants to a position of equality. Of the Christians in arms it is not necessary to take serious notice. They are brigands, and will remain so till hunted out by the executive of new law-givers.

As regards the financial question, I have mentioned that the military having won a moral victory over the civil, indulged in lavish expenditure. The resignation of Finance Minister Szell in Hungary, and the Cabinet complications produced thereby, will, however, react on the exponents of the principle of might rather than right or reason.

Bosnia is a wonderfully gifted land, and must soon pay its way, but ready money is the national want. And the Hungarians will take advantage of momentary pressure to check the headlong progress of the Court party in the direction of annexation.

Finance Minister Szell is a future Prime Minister, and his determined action aims at nothing less than putting off the day when the Turkish Slav provinces shall send members to the Houses of Legislature.* I quite think from the evidence before me that the Hungarians were right in suspecting that the war and Court party intended to occupy even Novi-Bazar this season. The military must have been somewhat ashamed of their strength exhibited in the field, and required a feat of arms, such as the capture of Novi-Bazar, to excuse it.

The Hungarian Prime Minister is now, however, obliged to make a diminution of immediate expenditure a condition of retention of office; and the Hungarian agitation may serve the purpose of facilitating a reduction of the army mobilized to reasonable proportions.

As regards the gendarmerie no satisfactory progress is reported. The last difficulty was regarding their clothing. The Commander-in-chief is in favour of a national uniform like that of the Turkish zaptiehs, but this idea seemed to check the number of volunteers. I heard of 200 sailors from the district of Istria having been accepted, but men who speak the language are most needed.

In the newspapers I read alarming reports regarding the supplies of food and the accommodation in Serajevo. There is grain enough stored for the consumption of 60,000 men for a month. Meat is about 2*d*. per lb., and can be obtained in abundance, so much so that the soldier's ration now is half the quantity of bread and two and a-half rations of meat. Wine is one of the great difficulties, and as regards barracks no one will sign a contract owing to the difficulty of carriage; so the troops must be quartered for the most part on the inhabitants. This has been done of late in other towns, such as Maglai and Banja Luka.

If every Commanding Officer had acted up to the spirit of His Majesty's wishes in the same manner as Count Szapary, supplies could be obtained on the spot, but the troops seem to be prejudiced against the meal of Indian corn. Therefore wheat-flour and wine are the two articles which must be imported. The Moslems seem not to object to their mosques being used as granaries; they, in fact, set the example themselves.

To sum up, I can report that the Austrian occupation has been clumsily but thoroughly carried out, and it only remains for the military in limited numbers to occupy points from which they can afford the as yet unorganized civil form of local government, moral, or, if need be, substantial support. A scheme of colonization would render great assistance, but progress has not extended thus far, and it will require agitation such as the present which shakes the position of Count Andrassy himself to prevent Austria indulging in her pernicious habit of undervaluing the exigencies of time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. GONNÉ, *Major, 17th Lancers, Military Attaché.*

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* The votes of the Czechs of Bohemia threaten the Magyar power also.

No. 304.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 12.)

(No. 800.)
My Lord, *Paris, October* 11, 1878.

I HAD yesterday the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch No. 646 of the 4th instant, directing me to communicate to M. Waddington a copy of the instructions given to Sir Henry Drummond Wolff on his appointment to act, on Her Majesty's behalf, in the European Commission, constituted under the Treaty of Berlin, to elaborate the organization of Eastern Roumelia.

I have accordingly inclosed a copy of those instructions to M. Waddington, who is absent from Paris, in a *note verbale*, a copy of which I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 304.

Note Verbale.

(Confidential.)

IN the course of a conversation which took place on the 26th of last month between M. Waddington and Mr. Adams on the subject of the organization of Eastern Roumelia, his Excellency expressed a desire to know what line Her Majesty's Government intended to take in the matter, and to be informed confidentially of the tenour of their instructions to Sir H. D. Wolff.

Lord Salisbury feels that he cannot better respond to the desire expressed by M. Waddington than by authorizing Lord Lyons to communicate confidentially to his Excellency the instructions which have been addressed to Sir H. D. Wolff.

A copy of these instructions is accordingly placed confidentially in M. Waddington's hands; and by desire of Lord Salisbury, Lord Lyons has the honour to inform his Excellency that Sir H. D. Wolff will endeavour to obtain a Constitution which will give such security for freedom, property, public order, and purity of justice that the Bulgarians in Eastern Roumelia shall have no cause to envy the Bulgarians of the Principality. At the same time, he will not lose sight of the necessity of placing sufficient power in the hands of the Executive to enable it to frustrate treasonable intrigues.

It will be seen that within these lines much is left to the judgment of Sir H. D. Wolff, who must be greatly guided by the tone of his brother Commissioners. He will insist on the management of the finances of the province according to the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin, and will do his utmost to prevent the Russians retaining any portion of the civil Government during the intermediate period.

Sir H. D. Wolff is further instructed, if any observations are made by Russian officers in authority, which imply intentions inconsistent with a due observance of the Treaty of Berlin, to say that Her Majesty's Government are fully resolved to insist on the exact fulfilment of the obligations prescribed by that Treaty.

Lord Lyons is specially directed to assure M. Waddington of the desire of Her Majesty's Government to act cordially with that of France in carrying out faithfully and efficiently the obligations which they, in common with the other Signatory Powers, have contracted under the Treaty of Berlin.

Paris, October 11, 1878.

No. 305.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 12.)

(No. 802.)
My Lord, *Paris, October* 11, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I have this day addressed a *note verbale* to the French Government in the terms of your Lordship's despatch No. 653 of the 7th instant respecting the postponement of the recognition of the independence of Roumania until the fulfilment of the stipulation of the Treaty of Berlin respecting religious equality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 306.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 12.)

Scutari, October 12, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)
COMMANDER has been directed to evacuate Spuz and Podgoritza without raising suspicion of the inhabitants. He has replied that the order is impracticable.

Two companies of disarmed Turkish soldiers arrived here from Herzegovina through Montenegro.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 307.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

Foreign Office, October 12, 1878, 7 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)
THE following are the important parts of the Circular left with me by Russian Chargé d'Affaires:—

"The Commander-in-chief has, at the same time, been obliged to suspend the retreat of our army, and to take the military measures which the alarming state of the country demands. But, in order to put a stop to this state of things, and to re-establish order and security in the districts which we are to quit, it is imperatively necessary to induce the Porte to co-operate, by means of the most urgent and energetic measures, for such alone can arrest the development of a state of things which will inevitably lead us into the most serious complications.

"Our Ambassador at Constantinople has not failed to take steps in this sense, and by order of the Emperor, I request that you will inform the Government to which you are accredited thereof, and you will, at the same time, urge them to join in our representations to the Porte, with a view to render possible the execution of the Treaty of Berlin, and to secure for the stipulations of that solemn act all the respect which is due to them."

Whether this is truthful, or a pretext, it is equally essential that the Porte should be ready to occupy and govern country as Russians evacuate it.

No. 308.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

Foreign Office, October 12, 1877, 9 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)
ASCERTAIN whether Austrian Government propose to levy Austrian or Turkish Tariff on frontiers of Bosnia.

No. 309.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Macdonell.

Foreign Office, October 12, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)
MY ground for thinking right of administering Eastern Roumelia cannot be with Russians is that Treaty only gives them right to occupy; that in case of Bosnia in Article XXV distinction appears to be drawn between occupation and administration, that occupation has never hitherto carried with it administration, as, for instance, allied occupation of France in 1815, German in 1871, Austrian occupation of Italy before 1842, French occupation of Rome.

No. 310.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Gould.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 12, 1878, 5:45 P.M.

IF other Powers consent we have no objection to the Servo-Bulgarian frontier being demarcated by the Servian Commission.

But the result must, as a matter of form, be accepted by the Bulgarian Commission.

No. 311.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 12, 1878.

ON question of the right of administering Eastern Roumelia during the period of occupation, I have received an evasive answer from Italy, Germany, and Austria, and none from France. I do not expect, therefore, sufficient support to justify a stand being made on this point, on which Treaty is ambiguous. You should continue to insist on right to administer finances. As to whether you should go to Philippopolis or not, must be left to your judgment; but I should lean in favour of your going. Generally speaking, if Russians insist on acting incompatibly with Treaty, enter a protest, but continue to fulfil Treaty obligations on our part. Do not make their refusal to observe it a ground for abandoning any portion of your engagements. If war is to come, it should come on a broad issue, easily understood. A refusal to evacuate at the lapse of stipulated nine months will furnish such an issue. I should therefore be against breaking off before that time.

No. 311*.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 12, 1878.

WITH reference to the telegram No. 908 from Sir A. H. Layard, repeated to you to-day, please ascertain opinion of Count Andrassy as to statement of Russian Ambassador.

No. 312.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1251.) [B.B.]

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 12, 1878.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a circular telegraphic despatch from M. Giers, dated the [illegible], which was placed in my hands on the 9th instant by the Russian Chargé d'Affaires, a *résumé* of which has already been communicated to your Excellency by telegraph.

It states that the condition of the country from which the Russian troops are being withdrawn is so disorganized that General Todleben has found it necessary to suspend the retirement of his army from Turkish soil; and an urgent appeal is made in the name of the Emperor that other Governments should strenuously support the representations which the Russian Ambassador at the Porte has been instructed to make to induce the Ottoman Government to co-operate with the Russian authorities by the most energetic measures, in order to arrest the development of a condition of things which must inevitably lead to very serious complications.

According to the reports which have reached the Russian Government, the anarchy which springs up wherever the Russian troops are withdrawn is so widespread that, unless order is re-established and security for life and property obtained, it is hinted that the Russians will be unable to carry out the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin.

Her Majesty's Government are not in a position to judge how far these fears may be really justified by the facts, but, in any case, it is essential that the Porte should

forthwith be prepared to occupy and administer the districts to be restored to it immediately they are vacated by the Russians.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 313.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 53.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 12, 1878.

I HAVE endeavoured to ascertain the views of four of the Great Powers as to the question which has arisen with regard to the administration of Eastern Roumelia during the intermediate period of its occupation by the Russians.

The replies which have been received from the Governments of Austria, Germany, and Italy are not clearly defined, while no opinion has been expressed by that of France. It does not seem likely, therefore, that sufficient support would be given to justify the insistance of the British Commissioners upon a point with regard to which the Treaty of Berlin is not clear; but you should continue to insist on the right of the Commission to administer the finances of the province.

I must leave it to your own judgment to decide whether or not you should proceed to Philippopolis, but I am disposed to lean in favour of your doing so.

As a general rule by which to shape your conduct, should the Russians persist in acting in a manner which is incompatible with the Treaty of Berlin, you should enter a protest against their proceedings, but you will continue, as British Commissioner, to fulfil the Treaty obligations by which we are bound. The refusal on their part to observe its stipulations cannot justify the abandonment by us of any portion of our engagements. If war is to come, it should come on a broad issue which can be easily understood, and such an issue would be provided by the refusal of the Russians to evacuate after the lapse of nine months, as stipulated by the Treaty. I should be very unwilling, therefore, that the negotiations should be broken off before the expiration of that time.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 314.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Gould.

(No. 32.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 12, 1878.

I HAVE to state to you that Her Majesty's Government would have no objection that the frontier line of demarkation between Bulgaria and Servia should be traced by the Servian Commissioners, should the assent of the other Powers be obtained to their doing so.

As a matter of form, the result of their labours would have to be submitted for the acceptance of the Bulgarian Commission.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 315.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Macdonell.

(No. 354.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 12, 1878.

I HAVE received your telegram of the 10th instant, in which you state that the Italian Government would be glad to be informed of the grounds upon which Her Majesty's Government base their opinion that the Administration of Eastern Roumelia during the intermediate period should rest either with the Porte or with the Commission.

In reply I have to state to you that the reasons which cause Her Majesty's Government to think that this right of administration cannot be exercised by the Russians are:—

That the Treaty of Berlin only gives them the right to occupy.

That in Article XXV, which deals with the case of Bosnia, a distinction appears to be drawn between occupation and administration; and further, that occupation has never hitherto carried with it administration, as shown, for instance, in the case of the allied occupation of France in 1815, of the German occupation of France in 1871, of the Austrian occupation of Italy before the year 1848, and of the French occupation of Rome.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 316.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 537.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 12, 1878.

I HAVE to-day requested your Excellency by telegraph to endeavour to ascertain whether it is the intention of the Austro-Hungarian Government to levy duties on articles crossing the Bosnian frontier, according to the Turkish or the Austrian Tariff.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 317.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 539.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 12, 1878.

IN my despatch No. 530 of the 10th instant, I requested your Excellency to ascertain Count Andrassy's opinion upon the statement said to have been made by the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople to the Grand Vizier, that the Russian troops would not evacuate Adrianople until three months should have expired after the signature of the definitive Treaty of Peace which he was then offering to the Porte.

I now inclose copy of a telegram which I addressed to Sir H. Layard, stating that Her Majesty's Government entirely declined to accept such a contention, and expressing my opinion that the Grand Vizier must have mistaken the Ambassador's meaning.

I inclose also copy of Sir H. Layard's reply, in which it is stated that the Grand Vizier asserts that he was not mistaken in saying that the Russian Ambassador intimated to him that, as no provision had been made in the Treaty of Berlin for the withdrawal of Russian troops from the territories occupied by them outside Eastern Roumelia, Russia, according to the XXVth Article of the Treaty of San Stefano, would not be called upon to evacuate those territories until three months should have elapsed after the conclusion of the definitive Treaty of Peace, the signature of which was being proposed by her to the Turkish Government.

I have requested your Excellency by telegraph to ascertain the opinion of Count Andrassy upon this intimation, the nature of which has now been precisely recorded by the Grand Vizier.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 317[a].

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 13.)

(No. .)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 12, 1878.

AM I to ask Porte for Mr. Palgrave's Exequatur as Consul-General in Bulgaria, and will the Russians recognize it if given?

No. 318.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 13.)

(No. 911.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 12, 1878.

WITH reference to your telegram of this morning, I have just seen Sultan, and have pressed upon him the importance of taking measures for governing country evacuated by Russians, and for protecting populations. This is being done, and Mahzar Pasha goes as Commissioner to reassure Chirstians. I have every reason to believe that Russian statements are greatly exaggerated if not unfounded, although after the manner in which Christians were permitted to treat Mussulmans and their property during Russian rule, acts of retaliation can scarcely be prevented. Colonel Home and Chermside are gone to country evacuated by Russians, and will report to me.

It may be suspected that Russians are seeking pretexts to retain present positions and to scatter and weaken Turkish army.

No. 319.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 13.)

(No. 912. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 12, 1878.

FROM what Sultan said to me to-day about Greece, I am led to believe that he is desirous to avoid, if possible, a war with her, and to come to a settlement by some territorial concession. He did not explain himself, but said that he communicated his views to Khairredin Pasha, with whom he requested me to discuss the matter.

I shall do so on Monday, and will strongly urge some concessions that might be accepted.

No. 320.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 13.)

(No. 913. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 12, 1878.

I HAD a very long conversation to-day with the Sultan as to the importance of Turkey executing the Treaty of Berlin. His Majesty expressed very earnestly his desire to do so, but pointed out the great difficulties in the way. His Majesty said that if Her Majesty's Government could, by their mediation and good offices, smooth the way for him, Turkey would be for ever grateful to England. There were two most pressing questions to be settled, the Bosnian and Montenegrin. If the first remained as it was there must be coldness, if not more between Turkey and Austria. Could Her Majesty's Government help him to bring about some arrangement on the following bases?:—

1st. That his sovereignty should be recognized and that Mahommedans should be employed in certain offices.

2nd. That a term should be fixed for the occupation.

3rd. That a line should be drawn beyond which the Austrian occupation should not extend, and—

4th. That the Mussulmans should enjoy full protection and equal rights.

As regards territorial cession to Montenegro, the Sultan said that he had no wish to avoid executing the Treaty, but that there was the greatest difficulty in the way of reconciling the Albanians to the loss of territory belonging to them. He wished to come to a settlement which might avoid present and future complications, and he consequently proposed to cede some other territory to Montenegro in lieu of that inhabited by Albanians exclusively.

His Majesty said that until these questions and that of Greece were settled he could do nothing for the better government of his Empire and for the introduction of

the necessary reforms, and that he therefore hoped that Her Majesty's Government would help him with their good offices.

Would Her Majesty's Government be disposed to offer their mediation to settle the Bosnian question, which appears to me a very dangerous one considering the attitude of Russia?

No. 321.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 13.)

(No. 252.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October* 12, 1878.

ALTHOUGH Count Andrassy does not object to proposal mentioned in your telegram of 10th, that the Commission of Delimitation should report to the Ambassadors at Constantinople instead of to their Governments, he does not seem disposed to give Count Zichy sufficient authority to commit his Government upon the questions referred to Ambassadors.

The decision upon them should rest with the Cabinets after learning the view of the Ambassadors.

No. 322.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 13.)

(No. 253.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October* 12, 1878.

NOTHING has yet been decided on question whether the Austrian or Turkish Tariff is to be inforced in Bosnia; but the matter is under consideration.

No. 323.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 13.)

(No. 254.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October* 12, 1878.

I HAVE asked Count Andrassy for a reply to your Lordship's question, respecting administration of Eastern Roumelia during intermediate period.

He says that, the Treaty being silent upon the question, he does not think that the Powers can insist upon Russia abandoning the administration, but that the Commission must have a control over the finances, as was provided in it. The great object, he said, should be to insure evacuation by the Russians at the proper time.

I pointed out that, by the Treaty, a gendarmerie and militia, officered by the Sultan, was to be formed for the maintenance of tranquillity on the departure of the Russians, which could not be done unless Porte or the Commission administered the province, and that the Russians were now forming a Bulgarian military force, and selected the officers for it, thus aiming at defeating the Berlin arrangements.

Count Andrassy admitted that the argument, which had not before struck him, had much weight; and I shall endeavour to ascertain whether he maintains his first view; but he proposes to go to Hungary almost immediately.

No. 324.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 13.)

(No. 255.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October* 12, 1878.

I HAVE asked Count Andrassy his opinion upon Mr. Layard's telegram repeated in yours of the 10th.

He had received a Russian Circular asking that the Porte should be called upon to take measures to protect Christians who had been massacred in places from which the Russian troops had withdrawn, and ending with declaration of determination of the Imperial Government to adhere strictly to Treaty if not prevented by proceedings of Turks.

He considered that whether the statements were true or false, it would be right to invite Porte to take efficient steps to protect Christians as Russians retired, and he was, therefore, in favour of acceding to the Russian proposal.

He declared his faith in the Emperor Alexander's assurance that he would abide by the Treaty.

I said that the Russians appeared to refuse to allow any Turkish force to enter a place till last Cossack had left it, and Porte could not be responsible for what then occurred. He said Porte could very properly point this out in reply to the representation [?] which he thought should be made to it.

With reference to intention of the Russians fully to execute Treaty, I said that it was evident from the language of the Russian Ambassador to the Grand Vizier, that they understood Treaty of Berlin differently from us, as they do not admit it to be the definitive Treaty by which they were bound to evacuate Adrianople in three months.

He doubts the accuracy of the language attributed to the Russian Ambassador, as Count Zichy has not reported it, but he said that the Russian Government should be made aware that we consider Treaty of Berlin the definitive Treaty fixing the stay of their troops, and he felt sure that all the other Governments would share view which he and Her Majesty's Government take on the subject.

No. 325.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 13.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 12, 1878.*

MEETING to-day amicable. After discussion Tzerotelow withdrew motion respecting Article XXIII of the Treaty.

Decided that Commission should adjourn to Philippopolis as soon as questions of bank and repatriation have been [?] settled.

Next meeting to discuss these questions on Thursday.

I hear Council of Ministers has rejected somewhat liberal proposals for government of Province prepared by legal advisers of the Porte.

No. 326.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 13.)

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, October 12, 1878.*

MALLET now says that further modifications have been made respecting proposed Ottoman Loan, and begs to withdraw paper inclosed in my despatch No. 805 of to-day.

No. 327.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 13, 1878, 7 A.M.*

M. BARTOLOMEI desires to state, with reference to Lord Salisbury's communication to him of a report that Prince Labanoff had told Safvet Pasha that the Russian troops would not be withdrawn from Adrianople until after the signature of the separate Treaty between Russia and the Porte, that he has been informed by his Government that the withdrawal of their troops from Adrianople is not dependent on the signature of that Treaty, but on the execution by the Porte of her obligations under the Treaty of Berlin.

No. 328.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1256.) [B.B.]

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 13, 1878.*

I HAVE communicated to M. Bartholomei the report which had reached me of a statement said to have been made by Prince Labanoff to Safvet Pasha to the effect that the Russian troops will not be withdrawn from Adrianople until the separate Treaty which has been proposed to the Porte by Russia has been signed.

M. Bartholomei has been informed by his Government in reply that the above statement is erroneous, and that the withdrawal of the Russians from Adrianople is not dependent on the signature of the Treaty in question, but on the due fulfilment by the Porte of the obligations which she has accepted under the Treaty of Berlin.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 329.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 14.)

(No. 75. Political.)

My Lord, *Scutari, September 30, 1878.*

INFORMATION reaching this from Prisrend confirms the reports of dissensions having arisen between the towns and districts of that part of Albania.

The Committee of the National League has transferred its head-quarters to Ipek, on the pretext of being nearer to the Montenegrin and Bosnian frontiers, but really from the fact of Prisrend and other localities further south having declined to pledge themselves to the violent course advocated by the Committee.

A notification had been received from the League by Prisrend to the effect that, if it persisted in thus separating itself from the national cause it would, as soon as the feast of the Bairam had passed, be attacked, pillaged, and burnt.

Considerable alarm was, on this account, felt at Prisrend, as the neighbouring Mahommedan tribe of the Loma is always ready to make a descent on the town, and might easily be led, on the present occasion, to undertake to execute the sentence of the League.

I am only disposed to attach importance to the League as an organization of the localities directly affected by the territorial cessions made by Treaty to Montenegro, and not as one embracing in any strong bonds the rest of Albania. It may, however, be used, by the turbulently inclined, as a screen for attacks on rich and weak neighbours.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 330.

Consul Lyall to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 14.)

(No. 35. Consular.)

My Lord, *Tiflis, October 2, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that it has been decided to construct a railway along the sea-coast between Batoum and Poti, a distance of 70 versts.

A number of Armenians from Erzeroum and Trebizond emigrated into Batoum as soon as they heard it was definitively to be surrendered to Russia. These people, arriving some days before the occupation of the place by the Russian authorities, persuaded the Turkish proprietors that as they would certainly be oppressed and ill-treated by the Russians they had better sell their property and emigrate, which the Turks accordingly did, selling at very low prices.

The Armenians having obtained possession, demanded from the Russians, who arrived a day or two subsequently, an advance of something like 1,000 per cent. on the original bargains, *i.e.*, for a house they had purchased at 400 roubles they demanded 16,000 roubles; for a building site purchased at 50 roubles, 5,000 roubles.

The Russian officers complain that they cannot possibly live on their pay, as they are charged, not only at Batoum but along the frontier, exorbitant rates for lodgings, &c., by the Armenians.

The Shah of Persia has engaged five Austrian officers as instructors for his troops, and has purchased 10,000 stand of breech-loading arms, with a considerable quantity of ammunition, ten pieces of breech-loading field artillery, and five mitrailleuses, which war material is being forwarded through Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER TSCHUDI LYALL.

No. 331.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 14.)

(No. 17. Political. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Corfu, October 3, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report that M. Zaïmis, ex-Minister of his Hellenic Majesty, arrived here by the Brindisi mail-steamer of the 30th ultimo, from Bucharest, by way of Paris, whither he had gone to visit the Exhibition.

2. Immediately on his arrival M. Zaïmis sought an interview with the editors of our three weekly journals, on whom, I understand, he sought to impress the desirableness of a change in the subject matter and recent tone of their leading articles.

3. To the results of this conference, I have no doubt, is to be attributed the entire cessation, in the issues of the week, of the vulgar abuse heaped on England in which those papers have latterly indulged, *ad nauseam*. Instead, a peace policy is now being preached up—peace at any price—as the only means of saving the country, reduced, as it is, to the verge of ruin; and this doctrine is enforced by a very elaborate allusion to the fate of Charles X, Louis Philippe, and Napoleon III, precipitated from the Throne of France by allowing themselves to be blindly guided by the counsels of Polignac, Guizot, and Pelikao. This is a friendly warning, no doubt, to King George and his Minister Coumoundouros.

4. The reasons given why the recent attempts to revolutionize Thessaly and Epirus failed are, that the direction of the enterprize and the disposal of the "sinews of war" were entrusted, for the most part, to individuals notoriously corrupt. This was the real cause of the failure of this improvised movement, which was destined to give birth to a "Hellenic question;" but, "instead thereof, produced nothing but reproach, abuses, and falsified accounts."

This is a hint to M. Calligis, Coumoundouros' right-hand man, President, Director, and oracle of the Central Committee for "National Defence!"

5. Meanwhile it is reported that 20,000 additional men of the Reserve are to be called out; and, by my last advices from Santa Maura, I am informed that, on their side, the Turks are diligently engaged in fortifying their position at the Punta, over against the town of Prevesa, by constructing a new battery mounting eighteen guns.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

No. 332.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 14.)

(No. 836.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October 7, 1878.*

ON the receipt of your Lordship's telegram of the 27th ultimo, I requested Mr. Plunkett to call at the Foreign Department and to inform M. Milnikoff that Major Gordon was appointed British Member of the Commission for the demarcation of the southern frontier of Eastern Roumelia. M. Melnikoff promised to transmit the information by telegraph to M. de Giers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 333.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 14.)

(No. 837. Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October 8, 1878.*

I LEARNT on my passage through Baden, from a private but reliable source, that during his stay at Vienna Count Schouvaloff sought to induce Count Andrassy to annex openly Bosnia and the Herzegovina, and gave him reason to think that such a step would be agreeable to Russia.

My informant stated that Count Schouvaloff also suggested to Count Andrassy the desirableness, in the interests of Austria, of extending the Austrian occupation to the Ægean Sea, assuring him that this extension would meet with no opposition from Russia.

Count Andrassy appears to have rejected with some warmth these seductive proposals, saying that the Austrian Cabinet would strictly adhere to the Treaty of Berlin, and would in no way exceed its limit.

In thus confirming the information reported in Sir H. Elliot's despatch No. 666, Confidential, of the 18th ultimo, I may also express my concurrence in his Excellency's opinion that the proposal of Count Schouvaloff can only be regarded as tantamount to one for the partition of European Turkey.

I have no doubt that, although the proposal met with a decided failure, fresh endeavours will be made by Russia to bring about an understanding with Austria for the attainment of that object.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 334.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 14.)

(No. 838.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October 8, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that General Drenteln has been appointed by the Emperor to succeed the late General Mezentsoff as Chief of the third section of the Imperial Chancery and of the gendarmerie, which includes the secret police.

General Drenteln is said to be an officer of merit, of practical views and energy. He formerly commanded a division of the Guard at St. Petersburgh, was subsequently in command of the district of Kieff, and during the late war held the chief command at Bucharest, during which period his tact and firmness in difficult circumstances brought him specially under the notice of the Emperor.

General Heintz has also been appointed Prefect of Odessa in place of General Levaschoff, who incurred His Majesty's displeasure by his want of firmness and energy during the late riots in that city.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 335.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 14.)

(No. 839.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October 8, 1878.*

ON the receipt of your Lordship's telegram of the 3rd October, instructing me to support a request of the Grand Vizier, as reported in Sir A. Layard's telegram No. 874 of the 3rd instant, I requested Mr. Plunkett to call on M. Melnikoff and to inform him that I was instructed by your Lordship to support the request of the Grand Vizier, and that I hoped it would meet with the concurrence of the Imperial Government.

I have the honour to inclose to your Lordship the Report addressed to me by Mr. Plunkett of his interview, as also a copy of the reply of M. Melnikoff, from which your Lordship will see that at that date no information had reached Livadia of any such application in regard to Vranja.

On the following day Mr. Plunkett received a further note from M. Melnikoff, with

a copy of the telegram he had received from M. de Giers, copies of which are herewith annexed, which states that His Majesty the Emperor, taking his stand on the Treaty of Berlin, will never give his assent to the proposal respecting Vranja.

Mr. Plunkett took the opportunity to inquire of M. Mehnikoff whether the Imperial Government had consented to postpone the meeting of the Commission to delimitate the Montenegro frontier, to which M. Mehnikoff replied that he believed a postponement had been agreed to, but without any fixed date being mentioned for its meeting.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 335.

Mr. Plunkett to Lord A. Loftus.

St. Petersburgh, October 5, 1878.

My Lord,

IN compliance with your Excellency's instructions I called this afternoon at the Foreign Department, and informed M. Mehnikoff that Her Majesty's Government had learnt that the Porte had expressed a wish that Servia should be induced to renounce Vranja for a pecuniary or other consideration, and that she has requested the Imperial Government to use their influence with Servia in this sense.

I also informed M. Mehnikoff that Her Majesty's Government support the request of the Porte, and hope that it will meet with the concurrence of the Imperial Government.

M. Mehnikoff stated that he had no knowledge of any application in this sense having been made to Prince Labanoff, but the papers concerning it might very possibly be still at Livadia, and he added that he would at once telegraph to M. de Giers the substance of the communication which I had been charged by your Excellency to make to him.

In reply to an inquiry whether it was true that Russia had consented to postpone till next year the meeting of the Commission for defining the Montenegrin frontier, M. Mehnikoff said he believed the arrangement come to was only to postpone the meeting till the state of the country would permit of the Commission carrying out its duties in safety, but he was under the impression that no specific date had been mentioned.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 335.

M. Mehnikow to Mr. Plunkett.

Le 6 Octobre, 1878.

Monsieur,

J'AI l'honneur de vous informer qu'en réponse à la communication que vous avez bien voulu me faire hier de la part de son Excellence M. l'Ambassadeur et que je me suis empressé de transmettre par télégraphe au Gérant du Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, M. Giers m'a communiqué aujourd'hui qu'à Livadia on ne sait absolument rien de la combinaison relativement à Vranja.

Veuillez porter cette réponse à la connaissance de Lord A. Loftus, et agréez, &c.
(Signé) MELNIKOW.

Inclosure 3 in No. 335.

M. Mehnikow to Mr. Plunkett.

Le 6 Octobre, 1878.

Monsieur,

VEUILLEZ soumettre à son Excellence, M. l'Ambassadeur, copie ci-jointe du télégramme que je viens de recevoir de M. le Gérant du Ministère des Affaires Etrangères et qui fait suite à ma communication d'hier relative à Vranja.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) MELNIKOW.

Inclosure 4 in No. 335.

M. de Giers to M. Mehnikow.

(Télégraphique.) *Le [illegible], 1878.*

SUITE à mon télégramme de ce matin. Sa Majesté l'Empereur, se maintenant sur le terrain du Traité de Berlin, ne donnera jamais son assentiment à la combinaison relative à Vranja.

No. 336.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 14.)

(No. 840.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October 8, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship in translation, by Mr. Michell, two very remarkable articles from the "Novoe Vremya" and "Moscow Gazette," in regard to the position and policy of England and Russia in the East.

The "Novoe Vremeya" suggests that Russia should henceforth refrain from engaging in any struggle in European Turkey (where she will only meet with an European coalition against her), and confine her action to Asia, where she will only have to encounter England and Turkey.

For this purpose Russia should give her whole attention to the Caucasus and Turkestan, and make of them the bases of her future military operations.

The article then suggests that it would be for the interest of England to come to an amicable understanding with Russia, by which Russia would "reign supreme on the Bosphorus," and the commercial relations of England with Southern Asia will be guaranteed by Russia, who is alone able "to offer England a guarantee for a tranquil and extensive development of English trade in the East."

This Russian exuberance would be simply ridiculous, did it not foreshadow the real object and intention of Russian policy, and did it not further tend to inflame the already overheated aspirations of the Russian nation.

The article from the "Moscow Gazette" is not of less importance than that from the "Novoe Vremya," as it exercises considerable influence over Russian public opinion.

This article suggests that in the event of England entering Afghanistan, and of the entrance of English troops into Cabul, Russia should occupy Balkh, Merv, and other points (probably meaning Herat), the importance of which may be more correctly defined by the local Russian military authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 336.

Extract from the "Moscow Gazette."

(Translation from the Russian.)

ENGLAND AND RUSSIA IN THE EAST.—The "Novoe Vremya" publishes the following observations with reference to the policy of England and Russia in the East. The author of these remarks, the "Novoe Vremya" states, is thoroughly competent to form an opinion on the subject:—

* * * * *

"If the policy of Great Britain does not undergo a change the Eastern question may, at no distant future, assume a direction which may be determined as follows:—

"1. England will strive, by means of her protectorate over Turkey, to secure her dominion in India, and with this object she will actively endeavour to strengthen her supremacy in Egypt, and to construct lines of railroads to India through Asiatic Turkey.

"2. Russia will refrain from engaging in any new wars in European Turkey, and excluding in this manner Western European interests from the Eastern question, will turn her serious attention to her central boundaries, Turkestan and the Caucasus, which she will convert into bases for future operations in Asia.

"It is far more profitable for Russia to have to deal only with England and Turkey,

as Asiatic Empires, than to involve Western European States in the question. English interests in Asia are considered of great importance in England, whereas our interests there are as yet insignificant, and consequently we do not risk losing much, even in the event of a failure. England, however, is differently situated, as, on the slightest success gained by us, she may lose everything. On the other hand, neither Austria nor France, and, similarly, the other European Powers, have any interest in India, and it may even be presumed that it would be desirous for a number of the Great Powers to weaken the commercial supremacy of Great Britain in the East. On this basis we may, therefore, find allies. It is quite another matter when we enter into a war with England in European Turkey; here our enemy well knows how to shield herself behind the bulwark of European interests, and incite against us the Powers of Western Europe; in one word, in Europe we will meet with a coalition.

"Our most vital interests, as a Slav State, consist henceforth in pursuing an energetic policy in Asia. Most particular attention, in a military respect, must be devoted to the Caucasus, with the trans-Caucasian military circuit, and to Turkestan. Let England know that our Government never forgives the enemies of the State who work in ambush and resort to deceit and insolence! We are not ashamed of these words, however rough they may appear, as they express the truth. A staunch Government, alive to general interests and those of the future, and enjoying the confidence of a population of 100,000,000 individuals, serves as a guarantee that the sacred ends of Russia will be attained at all hazards.

"Would it not be advantageous for England to put a limit at once to the hostile policy, &c., pursued towards us?

"We consider that her direct interest consists in coming to an amicable understanding with ourselves. Russia will reign supreme on the Bosphorus, the Christians in European Turkey will receive their liberty, and England's commercial relations with Southern Asia will be guaranteed. It is only Russia who can offer England a guarantee for a tranquil and extensive development of English trade in the East.

"Who knows what events may transpire in North Western India merely from the fact of the English mission being denied access to Cabul? This is the first warning to Beaconsfield's Cabinet. His narrow policy, unless the English take timely heed, may lead to results of a most deplorable nature."

The "Moscow Gazette" of the $\frac{3rd\ September}{15th\ October}$ says:—

"Instead of extricating England from her difficulties in Afghanistan, it would be better for us to consider whether we can remain indifferent to the appearance of the English in Afghanistan. They are always asserting the necessity of securing the safety of India; we must also concern ourselves about securing the safety and tranquillity of our Central Asian possessions. It may transpire that, in answer to the appearance of the English troops in Cabul, we shall have to occupy Balkh, Merv, and other points, the importance of which may be more correctly defined by the Russian military authorities on the spot."

No. 337.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 14.)

(No. 844.)
My Lord,

St. Petersburgh, October 9, 1878.

WITH reference to Mr. Plunkett's despatch No. 795 of the 23rd ultimo, inclosing a telegraphic account, as published in the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg," of General Todleben's visit to Adrianople on the 18th ultimo, I now have the honour to transmit herewith an extract from the "Agence Russe," giving a further telegram from General Todleben, dated Adrianople, October 3, in which his Excellency describes the enthusiasm with which he was received by the clergy and the population, Mussulman as well as Christian, of the various towns between San Stefano and Adrianople. He states that the Turkish population evince complete confidence in the Russian authorities, voluntarily giving up their arms, and asking to have Russian soldiers lodged in their houses.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 337.

Extract from the "Agence Russe."

General Todleben's reception at Adrianople.

Andrinople, le $\frac{21\ Septembre}{3\ Octobre}$, 1878.

JE suis arrivé à Andrinople. A Bourgas, Aïdos, Karnabad, et Yamboli, le clergé et la plus grande partie de la population vinrent à ma rencontre: tous me prièrent de transmettre à Sa Majesté Impériale les sentiments de leur profonde reconnaissance à l'occasion de leur délivrance. Partout, l'enthousiasme et la joie étaient extraordinaires; les femmes jetaient des fleurs, les hommes portant des flammes, suivaient à cheval; toutes les villes étaient ornées de couronnes, de drapeaux Russes et Bulgares, et le soir illuminées. Les Turcs manifestent une entière confiance dans nos autorités, remettent volontairement leurs armes et demandent à loger nos soldats. Lors de la retraite de nos troupes des environs de Constantinople, beaucoup de familles Bulgares les ont suivies, malgré nos prières de ne pas quitter leurs foyers. La tranquillité règne dans le pays occupé par l'armée Russe.

No. 338.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 14.)

(No. 845.)
My Lord,

St. Petersburgh, October 9, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a translation by Mr. Michell of a statement which has been published in the "Golos," giving some interesting details respecting the return of the Russian troops from Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 338.

Extract from the "Golos."

RETURN OF RUSSIAN TROOPS FROM TURKEY.—In addition to the information which has already appeared in the Russian press relative to the Russian troops which have been recalled from Turkey, the "Golos" of the $\frac{22nd\ September}{4th\ October}$, 1878, gives the following particulars:—

Between the $\frac{4th}{16th}$ August and $\frac{15th}{27th}$ September, the whole of the Guard, the 9th, 10th, and 11th Reserve Infantry Divisions, with their ambulances, have been brought home by rail, and placed in their permanent quarters. The following troops have also returned to Russia from the seat of war:

The 1st, 5th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 22nd, 25th, 27th, 32nd, 39rd, 42nd, 44th, 45th, and 51st regiments of Don Cossacks; the 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, and 13th regiments of Orenburg Cossacks.

The Grenadier Infantry Division.
The 1st Grenadier Artillery Brigade.
The 1st regiment of irregular cavalry of Daghestan.
The 1st squadron of Gendarmes.
The 11th, 12th, 16th, 18th, and 20th batteries of the Don Cossacks.
The 2nd Urup and the Ekaterinodar regiments of Cossacks.
The 1st regiment of Ural Cossacks.
The 3rd section of the 3rd Mobile Artillery Park.
The 8th division of the Mobile Artillery Park.
The 10th, 15th, 17th, 18th, and 25th reserve artillery brigades.
The 1st and 2nd horse batteries of artillery.
The 4th section of cavalry of the Mobile Artillery Park.
The 1st and 2nd Field Telegraph Parks.
The 1st and 5th Rifle Brigades.
The 31st and 32nd infantry regiments of the 8th Reserve Division.

The 8th, 11th, and 32nd brigades, and 7th, 8th, 11th, and 12th reserve brigades of artillery.

The 3rd and 4th mounted batteries.

The 8th, 11th, and 32nd Infantry Divisions, and portions of the 6th, 9th, 25th, and 26th Infantry Divisions.

The 3rd Rifle Brigade.

The 2nd Cavalry Division.

The 2nd, 27th, 28th, 41st, 43rd, and 57th regiments of Don Cossacks.

The 5th and 15th regiments of Orenburg Cossacks.

The Ataman, Kuban, and 2nd Poltava Cossack regiments.

The Bashkir cavalry regiment, and the 1st Siege Park of Engineers.

In all, about 150,000 men have been brought home by rail between the 4th/16th August and 14th/26th September; 955 men were dropped *en route*, on account of sickness, which number was only about 0·63 per cent. of the whole body of troops transported.

(Signed) JOHN MICHELL.

St. Petersburgh, October 7, 1878.

No. 339.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 14.)

(No. 846.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October* 9, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of the note which, in compliance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 513 of the 2nd instant, I have addressed to M. de Giers, forwarding the replies of Mr. Reade to the statements which were made, on the authority of General Zolotoreff, in the note addressed to me by M. de Giers on the 25th June/7th July last.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 339.

Lord A. Loftus to M. de Giers.

M. le Conseiller Privé Actuel, *St. Petersburgh, October* 8, 1878.

I DID not fail to communicate to the Marquis of Salisbury the note which your Excellency addressed to me on the 25th June/7th July last, giving the explanations which had been furnished by General Zolotoreff respecting the occupation by the Imperial forces of the British Consulate at Rustchuk.

I have now the honour to submit herewith to your Excellency the replies of Mr. Reade to the various points advanced by General Zolotoreff, and confiding in the sentiments of impartiality and justice which distinguish your Excellency. I cannot doubt that on perusal of Mr. Reade's explanations you will recognize the validity of his claim. I entertain, therefore, the hope that the Imperial Government will be disposed, under the circumstances of the case, to make some compensation to Mr. Reade for any loss which he may have suffered from the damage or destruction of his property.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) A. LOFTUS.

No. 340.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 14.)

(No. 847.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October* 9, 1878.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 514 of the 2nd instant, I have the honour to inclose herewith copy of the note which I have addressed to M. de Giers, giving more detailed information as to the date on which the acts complained of by Mrs. Parry and Mr. Cuppa were committed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 340.

Lord A. Loftus to M. de Giers.

M. le Conseiller Privé Actuel, *St. Petersburgh,* September 27/October 9, 1878.

WITH reference to that part of your Excellency's note of the 22nd May/3rd June, in which you express a desire for further information as to the date on which the acts of the Imperial troops, complained of by Mrs. Parry and Mr. Cuppa, are alleged to have occurred, I have the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a further petition which has been received from Mrs. Parry.

I learn from the Marquis of Salisbury that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople has been requested to obtain further particulars and evidence from the complainants in regard to the acts committed, and the amount of damage or loss inflicted.

Your Excellency will observe, from the inclosed letter from Mrs. Parry, that her farm was first broken into on the 4th March.

This information may be of service in facilitating the inquiry which I have to request that your Excellency will cause to be made into the matter, and should the facts as stated by Mrs. Parry be confirmed, I have no doubt that the Imperial Government will deem it just to reimburse the sufferers for their losses, or to cause to be restored to them the property of which they have been forcibly deprived.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 341.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 14.)

(No. 848.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October* 9, 1878.

WITH reference to Mr. Plunkett's despatch No. 814 of the 25th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose two articles, one from the "Agence Russe," and the other from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg," dilating upon the hostility to Russia shown by the British and French members of the Rhodope Commission.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 341.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of September 25/October 7, 1878.

L'HISTOIRE de la Commission du Rhodope est fertile en enseignement de toute sorte. Elle montre comment la passion et l'esprit de parti peuvent amener des hommes honorables à oublier le rôle conciliateur qui leur était confié et à transformer une œuvre de paix en œuvre de discorde. A côté de ce spectacle affligeant, elle montre aussi, par un heureux retour, que les sentiments mesquins de l'âme humaine sont impuissants à prévaloir contre le bon droit et la vérité.

Les instructions données aux Commissaires Européens étaient de se renseigner sur la situation dans les Monts Rhodope, sur le chiffre, la nationalité, la religion des émigrés, sur les raisons qui les avaient forcés de quitter leur pays et sur les moyens de les rapatrier sans danger. Les Commissaires devaient s'entendre au besoin avec les autorités Russes sur les mesures à prendre et les secours à donner. La mission était assez belle et offrait un champ assez vaste à l'activité. On pouvait espérer qu'un même sentiment animerait chacun devant le malheur d'une population ignorante et fanatique, mais intéressante parce qu'elle souffrait.

L'événement n'a pas tardé à détruire cet espoir. La majorité, inféodée à MM. Fawcett et Challet, Commissaires Anglais et Français, refuse de se laisser adjoindre M. Youssévitch, Consul de Russie, dont la connaissance du terrain pouvait être si utile pour la guider dans le pays; elle choisit un itinéraire habilement tracé partout où l'esprit public était travaillé par des agents de toute sorte dans un sens hostile à la Russie.

Dès l'arrivée de la Commission à Xanthi, on pouvait être fixé sur la nature du piége

qui avait été tendu à la bonne foi de la minorité. Mais les protestations de M. Basily, notre Commissaire, sont inutiles, et il reste spectateur impuissant des efforts de ses collègues à s'ériger en juges absolus des prétendues cruautés des Russes et des Bulgares pendant la dernière guerre.

C'est dans ce cadre étroit que se renferme désormais la Commission et elle ne veut pas en sortir. Que lui importe la mission toute pratique qui lui était imposée; que lui importe le bien-être même de cette population Musulmane auquel elle feint de s'intéresser? Ses seuls travaux se bornent à recueillir de toutes mains des accusations mensongères et à les enregistrer.

Le Commissaire Russe, M. Lischine, qui—on le sait—avait remplacé M. Basily, tombé malade, a compris son devoir d'une manière plus sérieuse et aussi plus profitable dans l'intérêt de tous. Avec le concours du Commissaire Allemand, M. Müller, et du Commissaire Turc, Riza-Bey, il a réuni des données statistiques de grande valeur; il a su ainsi remplir les instructions qui étaient communes à tous ses collègues: il a établi le chiffre des émigrés du Rhodope, il a exprimé son avis sur les moyens de les secourir; il n'a pas jeté des paroles haineuses pour attiser la discorde entre Musulmans et Chrétiens il n'a pas versé dans l'ornière où tombaient ses collègues, à l'exception du Commissaire Allemand, dont l'attitude a été juste et impartiale. Il a flétri comme une calomnie toutes les accusations portées contre notre armée, et dont il indiquait facilement la source intéressée. Il a protesté, dans chaque Protocole, contre les faits mensongers qu'on osait alléguer. Il n'a pas voulu cependant se séparer de ses collègues pour ne pas paraître reculer devant une vérité accablante pour nous; il a quitté Kirdjâli avec eux et est entré dans le foyer même de l'insurrection, là où le nom Russe était abhorré; il voulait montrer qu'il ne craignait pas de voir nos ennemis face à face en défendant par sa présence même l'honneur de notre drapeau.

La Commission était alors sur un terrain nouveau; ce n'étaient plus comme naguère des émigrés inoffensifs, c'était une population armée, organisée en état de guerre, commandée par des Chefs énergiques, vivant depuis des siècles dans une réelle indépendance du Gouvernement Turc, portant l'effroi et la dévastation tout à l'entour. C'est de Kustendil à Batak et Dematica que s'étend cette sanglante anarchie.

Des Agents Anglais étaient depuis longtemps répandus parmi eux. Leur Commandant Supérieur, Saint-Clair, Ecossais par son père, Polonais par sa mère, aventurier de profession à la recherche d'émotions violentes, est entouré d'étrangers qui sont le rebut de la révolution cosmopolite; son Chef d'Etat-Major est un Polonais réfugié qui se fait appeler Baki-Beg; son premier Aide-de-camp est un Anglais, Mr. Paget. L'armée de Saint-Clair forme le noyau de l'insurrection. Mais d'autres bandes, et quelques-unes très-nombreuses, agissent séparément et ne reconnaissent pas son autorité; parmi elles, la bande de Hadji Ismaïl Aga est la plus importante.

On peut compter environ 30,000 insurgés constitués militairement. Le Gouvernement de Saint-Clair prélève la dîme, mais tolère le pillage. Il grandit chaque jour en popularité parmi les sauvages habitants des montagnes, et l'on peut prévoir qu'un jour viendra où toute la population du Rhodope reconnaîtra son autorité.

Là même où l'influence de la Porte n'est pas encore entièrement effacée, le nom de Saint-Clair est tout-puissant; les rares fonctionnaires Ottomans qui ont survécu à l'effondrement de la puissance Turque se courbent devant lui, et lui prêtent obéissance.

Il faut donc distinguer deux classes différentes dans la population du Rhodope: les émigrés proprement dits, sur lesquels la sollicitude de l'Europe pouvait se porter dans une juste mesure, et l'insurrection armée qui est presque un Gouvernement constitué.

La Commission a quitté le camp des insurgés et s'est rendue à Haskioï. Elle se trouvait là en deçà de la ligne de nos avant-postes, et dans tout autre circonstance elle aurait pu compter sur le bon vouloir de nos autorités militaires. Mais la conduite de quelques-uns de ses membres n'était pas de nature à leur créer un droit à notre sympathie, et notre Commissaire était bien fondé à prévenir ses collègues qu'ils ne pourraient adresser des demandes à nos officiers que comme particuliers et non plus comme membres d'une Commission Internationale. Il semblait vraiment que la majorité se jouait de la Délégation Européenne dont elle portait le caractère, en faisant à quelques-uns de nos officiers certaines questions insidieuses ou dont l'énoncé seul était une insulte au drapeau Russe.

Que dire enfin du manque d'égards flagrant témoigné aux autorités Russes d'Andrinople comme réponse à la courtoisie du Général-Major Lipinski?

Que dire de l'effet qu'a produit parmi toute la population Chrétienne l'indifférence des Commissaires Français et Anglais devant les souillures sacriléges de l'Eglise Orthodoxe de Plavon, et leur apitoiement sur le sort de la Mosquée Turque de ce même village!

Une mission ainsi comprise ne pouvait aboutir à un résultat sérieux. Cet appareil de mensonges et d'artifices n'était pas destiné à créer une œuvre durable. Au lieu donc de présenter un travail consciencieux contenant des faits positifs et capable de s'imposer à l'attention des Cabinets Européens, le Rapport rédigé par M. Challet et proposé à la signature des Commissaires ne renfermait que de vaines considérations appuyées sur des calomnies notoires. Qu'en est-il résulté? C'est que le Commissaire Russe a refusé de le signer, le Commissaire Allemand en a fait autant. On sait le reste.

Chaque Commissaire s'est réservé le droit de présenter un Rapport séparé à son Gouvernement.

On se demande s'il est permis de faillir ainsi au plus noble devoir qu'on ait à remplir comme homme public. On se demande quels résultats une mission ainsi comprise peut apporter au bien-être des populations dont on se proclame les défenseurs. On se demande, enfin, qu'elle n'aurait pas été l'indignation d'un Gouvernement Européen si quelque Commissaire étranger avait rempli vis-à-vis de son armée le rôle que certains Commissaires ont rempli vis-à-vis de la notre. Nous voulons croire que la Commission du Rhodope et l'échec de son Rapport sont des faits isolés. Mais ce qui s'est passé récemment restera dans la mémoire des populations Turque et Chrétienne, plus attentives à ce qui se passe sous leurs yeux qu'aux considérations lointaines de la politique générale.

Inclosure 2 in No. 341.

Extract from the "Agence Russe."

St. Pétersbourg, le $\frac{1}{13}$ Septembre, 1878, *Samedi soir.*

DEPUIS quelque temps l'armée Russe est l'objet des accusations les plus invraisemblables dont une partie de la presse étrangère se fait l'écho complaisant. On dirait que c'est un parti pris de tenir la réputation de nos braves soldats qui ont déployé dans la lutte autant de bravoure que de générosité et d'humanité dans la victoire envers les populations Musulmanes. Les commentaires malveillants d'une certaine presse, hostile à la Russie, ne sauraient évidemment atteindre l'honneur des troupes Russes et ne méritement même pas d'être relevés, car nous sommes depuis longtemps habitués à n'entendre qu'un langage acerbe, dicté par des sentiments de haine et de jalousie à l'égard de la Russie. Pourtant, nous ne nous serons jamais attendus à voir reproduire de pareilles exagérations dans des documents officiels destinés à la publicité. Il y a quelque temps, nous avons exprimé notre pensée sur les rapports exagérés et malintentionnés des Consuls Anglais qui accusent les Chrétiens de la Bulgarie et de la Roumélie de s'être livrés contre les Musulmans, avec, sinon la connivence, du moins l'impunité des autorités militaires et civiles Russes. Aujourd'hui, nous ne saurions que répéter ce que nous avons déjà dit à ce sujet. On pourrait croire cependant que la publication de ces pièces, dans un recueil qui porte un caractère officiel, est faite à dessein pour venir, en "quelque sorte," confirmer les bruits colportés par la malveillance de certains organes et dont le Gouvernement auquel nous faisons allusion se rendrait solidaire en employant de semblables moyens de conviction.

No. 342.

Mr. Dering to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 14.)

(No. 686.)

My Lord, *Berlin, October* 11, 1878.

HAVING failed to see Herr von Bülow yesterday, I left a short note for him, and called on his Excellency to-day. I told him that your Lordship was anxious to learn what was the opinion of the German Government with respect to the administration of Eastern Roumelia during the intermediate period pending the final organization of the province, and stated that Her Majesty's Government were of opinion that it should either be with the Porte or with the European Commission.

Herr von Bülow observed that it was by no means a simple question or one to be answered off-hand. He was actually then engaged in the perusal of a voluminous correspondence from Constantinople in which this very matter was touched upon. As soon as he had been able to study the question properly, to which he believed the XVIIth, XVIIIth, and XIXth Articles of the Treaty referred, his Excellency promised to send me an answer.

He observed that the solution of the question would probably be found in the Treaty itself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY NEVILL DERING.

No. 343.

Mr. Dering to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 14.)

(No. 567.)
My Lord, *Berlin, October* 11, 1878.

HERR VON BÜLOW referred to-day to his remarks to me on the subject of granting powers signed by the Sovereign or Minister for Foreign Affairs to the German Commissioner for Eastern Roumelia, which I had the honour to report to your Lordship in my despatch No. 560 of the 5th instant.

His Excellency said he had just received, amongst other correspondence from Constantinople, the first Report from Herr von Braunschweig, and he was now more prepared to give an opinion on the matter. He again repeated that there was no particular objection to forwarding these powers, but it appeared that all the Commissioners were not equally provided with signed powers, indeed he understood only the English and one other Power, he thought the Austrian. Unless, therefore, it was to be a general arrangement, the German Government did not see the necessity of furnishing their Commissioner with such an instrument, for which indeed no application had been received from Count Hatzfeld.

The appointment of Herr von Braunschweig, he added, had been notified officially to all the Powers concerned. In reply to an inquiry on my part, his Excellency here said that this notification of the appointment to Her Majesty's Government was made through the German Embassy in London.

He went on to say that he considered it in the common interest of all the Powers to simplify all matters connected with the Commission as far as possible. It must not be forgotten how numerous the various Commissions were, that there was always the possibility that for one reason or another changes might occur in the persons of the Commissioners, and if once the question of full powers and other formalities were gone into, it would lead to much more trouble and expense than he thought advisable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY NEVILL DERING.

No. 344.

Mr. Dering to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 14.)

(No. 568.)
My Lord, *Berlin, October* 11, 1878.

I TOOK occasion to-day to remind Herr von Bülow that he had been kind enough to promise me to put on record the personal opinion expressed to me by him on the subject of the interpretation of Article XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin, of the nature of which opinion I had the honour to inform your Lordship in my despatch No. 546 of the 27th ultimo.

Herr von Bülow at once handed me the Memorandum, the original and translation of which I have the honour to inclose herewith, in which his Excellency sets forth the reasons for his opinion that the control mentioned in the 4th paragraph of Article XXIII should be exercised by the International Commission, as regarded all the Christian provinces, and that the projected reforms in the Island of Crete were not excepted therefrom.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY NEVILL DERING.

Inclosure in No. 344.

Memorandum.

(Translation.)

IF the wording alone of the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin is taken into consideration, the interpretation, it is true, seems to show that the modifications which

the Porte is to undertake in the "Réglement Organique" for the Island of Crete do not belong to those subjects about which the Eastern Roumelian Commission is to be consulted. But, on the other hand, if the general tendency ("zusammenhang") of the negotiations which led to the acceptance of Article XXIII be considered, it can scarcely be doubted that the intention of the Treaty Powers was to submit to the revision and control of the proposed Commission the administrative reforms which the Porte will introduce in all its Christian provinces, thus, consequently, also in Crete.

The explanations of Count Schouvaloff and of Prince Bismarck, contained in Protocol 14, page 13, in particular support this interpretation.

The Conferences, besides, recapitulated in Protocol 18, from which it appears that the Russian proposal, viz., to record in the Treaty a solemn pledge for the supervision of the work of reform, was considered unnecessary, for the very reason that the control of a European Commission is stipulated for with regard to the reforms in all the Christian provinces of Turkey. An exception in the case of Crete is nowhere found.

Those passages of the Protocols which are under consideration invariably refer only to the "Greek provinces" of Turkey, without any distinction whatever.

No. 345.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 14.)

(No. 805. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, October* 12, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 791 of the 7th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that M. Charles Mallet called upon me this morning, in company with Mr. J. Stewart, and told me that the scheme for raising money for the Porte had again been completely transformed, and that it now comprised a plan for paying off, or rather converting, the 1858 Loan.

I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship a paper giving the details of the new scheme, and marked "Private and Confidential," which was put into my hands by M. Mallet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 345.

Project for a New Turkish Loan.

(Private and Confidential.)

1. CREATE and issue a loan for 10,000,000*l.*
2. The annuity of the loan to be 550,000*l.*
3. The interest to be 5 per cent. per annum, 500,000*l.*
4. The sinking-fund to be accumulative, and commence at ½ per cent. per annum (less the service commission of ½ per cent. per annum), 47,250*l.*
5. The service commission to be ½ per cent., 2,750*l.*
Total, 550,000*l.*
6. The security to be the Customs revenues of the Empire, which are to be assigned by the Turkish Government to trustees to be appointed by the bondholders and approved by the Turkish and British Governments, and which trustees shall, with the consent and approval of the Turkish and British Governments, nominate and appoint paid Commissioners to collect, receive, and remit the amount of the annual service of the loan out of the revenues so collected.
7. The salaries of the Commissioners to be paid out of the revenues collected at the ports to which they may be respectively appointed.
8. The Commissioners will remit to the trustees of the loan, by proportionate monthly instalments, the amount required for the annual service of the loan.
9. The Commissioners will remit to the Imperial Government, by monthly instalments, all the surplus revenues collected.

Application of Loan.

1. Pay off the outstanding amount of the 1858 Loan in stock of the new loan at par, say 3,600,000*l.* stock of the 1858 Loan, 3,600,000*l.*

2. Pay off the existing advance on the Customs revenues in stock of the new Loan at 50 per cent., say 1,500,000*l.* advances at 50 per cent., 3,000,000*l.*

3. Sell the remainder of the new loan to a syndicate, to be formed in London, at 50 per cent., by which the Imperial Government will receive 1,700,000*l.* in cash, 3,400,000*l.*

Total, 10,000,000*l.*

Addenda as to the proposed Application of the 1,700,000*l. Cash.*

1,200,000*l.* to be applied by the Imperial Government in the amelioration of the existing local monetary depression caused by the depreciation of the caimé and the debased silver and copper currencies.

400,000*l.* to be paid to the Bank against unsecured debts due by the Imperial Government to the Bank.

100,000*l.* to be paid for the expenses contingent on the negotiations, formation of Syndicate, conversion of the 1858 Loan, printing of new bonds, and other expenses in respect of the issue of the new loan.

Total, 1,700,000*l.*

No. 346.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 14.)

(No. 806.) *Paris, October 12, 1878.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 799 of the day before yesterday, I have the honour to inform you that M. Waddington, who has come back to Paris some days sooner than he intended, spoke to me this afternoon of the question which I had asked him, by your Lordship's order, respecting the administration of Roumelia.

He said that his instructions to the French Commissioner were to insist absolutely upon the Financial Administration being made over to the Commission, inasmuch as this was clearly prescribed by the Treaty of Berlin. As to the general administration, the Treaty was, M. Waddington observed, silent, and he had not been able to do more than direct the French Commissioner to be guided by circumstances, to endeavour to come to an understanding with his colleagues, and especially to act in concert with Her Majesty's Commissioner.

M. Waddington remarked, in conclusion, that there might certainly be great difficulty in making a Turkish Administration work practically in a country occupied by Russian troops.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 347.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 14.)

(No. 808.) *Paris, October 12, 1878.*

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 805 of to-day I inclosed a paper respecting the proposed scheme for an advance of money to the Porte, which M. Mallet had requested me to communicate to Her Majesty's Government.

Since that despatch was sent off I have received a letter from M. Mallet begging me to withhold the paper for the present, because, since he gave it to me, modifications have been proposed which are calculated to satisfy the just claims of the holders of the Loans of 1858 and 1862, without prejudice to the future or to the final settlement of the Ottoman debts ("diverses modifications ont été proposées qui paraissent de nature à donner une légitime satisfaction aux porteurs des Emprunts de 1858 et 1862, sans engager l'avenir et le réglement final des dettes de la Turquie").

M. Mallet's letter has arrived too late to enable me to stop my despatch, but I have informed your Lordship by telegraph that he desires to withdraw the paper.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 348.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Bey, October 14.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 10 Octobre*, 1878.

LA Sublime Porte a quelque raison de croire que la Russie a adressé à ses Représentants à l'étranger une Circulaire qui leur signale les dangers auxquels la retraite des troupes Russes exposerait la population Bulgare, et explique ainsi la tendance de cette population à suivre l'armée Russe. Pour le cas où cette Circulaire aurait réellement été envoyée et où vous seriez appelé à vous entretenir de cette question avec le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, je crois nécessaire de vous transmettre les informations authentiques qui nous sont parvenues à ce sujet. Lorsque les troupes Russes ont commencé leur mouvement de retraite, il s'est produit quelques cas isolés de meurtre, imputables à des gens sans aveu, mais ne présentant aucun caractère de gravité et n'ayant jamais eu pour effet de menacer la paix publique; mais ces incidents, sans doute exploités par la malveillance, ont effrayé les Bulgares et ont poussé un certain nombre d'entre eux par le sentiment d'une crainte chimérique à suivre l'armée Russe. Telle est l'exacte vérité sur cet incident qui n'aura sans doute pas d'autre suite, car le Gouvernement Impérial a pris toutes les mesures nécessaires pour maintenir l'ordre et la sécurité des biens de tous. La population Bulgare, alarmée à tort, ne tardera pas à se rassurer et à reconnaître qu'elle peut compter sur la protection efficace des autorités Ottomanes.

No. 349.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Bey, October 14.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 10 Octobre*, 1878.

DANS la séance de la Commission de la Roumélie Orientale tenue le 7, le Commissaire Britannique ayant déclaré que l'administration provisoire de cette province appartenait à la Sublime Porte, le Commissaire Russe a invoqué à l'encontre de cette motion l'Article XXVI du Traité de San Stefano, duquel il résulte que, tant que les troupes Russes resteront dans le pays, l'administration appartiendra aux autorités Russes.

Cette prétention sans fondement est basée sur une interprétation pour ainsi dire forcé de l'Article XXVI du Traité de San Stefano. Cet Article en effet n'était point applicable au territoire de la Roumélie Orientale qui faisait alors partie de la Principauté de Bulgarie, tandis que cette disposition ne visait que l'administration provisoire des localités qui devaient être restituées à la Turquie. Aujourd'hui que le Traité de Berlin a distrait le territoire de la Roumélie Orientale de la Principauté Bulgare, ce territoire n'est plus régi que par les dispositions du Traité de Berlin et par le droit commun.

Le Traité de Berlin réserve à la Commission le soin d'administrer les finances de la province, et le droit commun exige impérieusement que l'administration générale, moins la partie financière, appartienne à la Sublime Porte, ce qui n'est en aucune façon incompatible avec l'occupation militaire Russe. L'usage que la Russie essaie de faire de l'Article XXVI du Traité de San Stefano n'est donc pas admissible. Comme il est probable que les Cabinets des Grandes Puissances ont été avisés de cet incident, je vous mets au courant de la question pour que vous puissiez à l'occasion faire prévaloir cette manière de voir au Ministre des Affaires Etrangères.

No. 350.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Sir J. Pauncefote.—(Received October 14.)

Sir, *Admiralty, October 12, 1878.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, extracts from a letter dated the 1st instant from Vice-Admiral Sir G. Phipps Hornby, reporting having moved with his squadron from Prince's Island to Artaki.

I am, &c.
(Signed) THOS. WOLLEY.

Inclosure in No. 350.

Vice-Admiral Hornby to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Extract.) *"Alexandra," at Artaki, October 1, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, with reference to my letter of the 24th ultimo, that I weighed from Prince's Islands on the morning of the 28th, with the ships named in the margin,* and steamed towards the Seraglio Point. When off Scutari, the flag-ship hoisted the Turkish ensign at the main and saluted it with twenty-one guns. Having done this the squadron turned to the southward and proceeded for Artaki, where it anchored the same day about sunset.

2. The "Research" parted company off Moda Bay, and proceeded along the European coast of the Marmora to observe any movements on the part of the Russians, and to note the number of transports and vessels at the several ports occupied by them. She rejoined my flag here on Sunday afternoon, and Captain Wilson reports that no transports were seen at any of the roadsteads. A Russian battery of six guns and a few cavalry were encamped near Auguri river. The only Russian vessels observed were one despatch vessel, a steamer supposed to be the "Grand Duke Constantine," and two transports, Nos. 11 and 39, all steering to the eastward towing lighters and barges. At Rodosto a small number of cavalry were encamped to the left of the town, but no other troops were seen.

* * * * *

9. The "Cockatrice" arrived at Sulina on the 25th, and resumed her duties in the Danube, in conjunction with Her Majesty's Commissioners.

No. 351.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 14.)

(No. 31.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 13, 1878.*

I NEVER for a moment contemplated not going to Philippopolis. But I thought some notice should be taken of the declaration that Administration was being carried on under Treaty of San Stefano, especially after Prince Dondoukoff's language.

I fully appreciate your instructions, and have already acted in that sense, as you will gather from my telegram of yesterday.

Notwithstanding Commission having begun its labours, Prince Dondoukoff, I hear, has sold dimes of Roumelia to "protégé" named Maréchal, who has again sold them, with larger profit, to a firm named Vagliano Negroponte.

Russians admit our right as to finances. German Commissioner wants us to accept system established by Russia, guarantees being given by Russia that it shall be placed entirely under our control.

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* "Alexandra," "Agincourt," "Invincible," "Research," "Condor," and "Cygnet."

No. 352.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, October 13, 1878.*

RESOLUTIONS, adopted by large majorities of Senate and Chamber, have authorized the Roumanian Government to conform to the decision of the Treaty of Berlin. All civil and military authorities are to be withdrawn from Bessarabia, probably to-day, Dobrudscha to be occupied; and, with reference to remainder of question, temporary way prescribed by Constitution has to be followed.

No. 353.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General White.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 14, 1878, 3·25 P.M.*

IS there any prospect of a legislative measure being passed this year for the purpose of executing wholly or partially conditions of Treaty as to religious liberty.

No. 354.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 14, 1878, 3·40 P.M.*

IN reply to your telegram of the 12th instant, the Porte should be asked for Mr. Palgrave's exequatur. The Russians have nothing to do with it.

No. 355.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 14, 1878, 4·5 P.M.*

IF Colonel Home wishes to have a Roumanian Agent present at demarcation of Dobrudscha boundary will you arrange the matter with Mr. White.

No. 356.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1260.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 14, 1878.*

IT is possible that Colonel Home may consider it advisable that an Agent, representing the Government of Roumania, should be present at the demarkation of the boundary between the Dobrudscha and the Province of Bulgaria, and in such a case I have to request that you will communicate with Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Bucharest, and endeavour to arrange the matter with him.

The substance of the above has been communicated to your Excellency by telegraph.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 357.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1262.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 14, 1878.*

I HAVE received your telegram of the 12th instant, and, in reply, I have to instruct your Excellency to apply to the Porte for the issue of an exequatur to Mr. Palgrave as Her Majesty's Consul-General in Bulgaria.

With reference to the doubt you express as to whether the Russian authorities will recognize such an exequatur, I have to point to your Excellency that Russia has no right by Treaty to interfere in the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 358.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General White.

(No. 51.) [B.B.]
Foreign Office, October 14, 1878.

Sir,

AS I am desirous of ascertaining what prospect there is of the execution by Roumania of Article XLIV of the Treaty of Berlin which affects the question of religious liberty in that Principality, I have requested you this day by telegraph to report to me whether there is any probability of legislative measures being enacted this year by the Chambers with a view to partial or entire execution of those stipulations.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 359.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 15.)

(No. 81. Political.)
Aleih, September 28, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch, No. 102, and its inclosures, which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting further on the agitation existing in Mount Lebanon amongst the Maronites in consequence of the removal to Jerusalem of Bishop Butros Bistany.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 359.

Consul-General Eldridge to Sir A. H. Layard.

Aleih, September 28, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Excellency's despatch of the 27th ultimo, approving of my having caused to be generally known the substance of your despatch of the 20th July on the views taken by His Majesty the Sultan, the Sublime Porte, the French Ambassador, and your Excellency on the conduct of the Governor-General of the Lebanon with regard to Bishop Butros Bistany.

In consequence of the irritation existing amongst the Maronites, and especially amongst the clergy, as previously reported, M. Ludovico Piavi, the Apostolic Delegate of the Pope, was charged by the Court of Rome to endeavour to effect some arrangement between Rustem Pasha and the Maronite clergy, by which the agitation which still exists in the Lebanon, though to a much less degree since the return of the Governor-General, might be caused to cease.

In order to come to an understanding on this subject, M. Ludovico spent with his Excellency, as his guest, about a fortnight, partly at Beddin and partly in tents at Aleih.

During this time the matter was much discussed, and it was at length agreed that the Delegate of the Pope should endeavour to induce the Patriarch and Maronite Bishops, including Bishop Butros, to accept and sign a declaration drawn up in a form something like that of which I have the honour to inclose a copy. This document is only a rough draft, embodying the principles to which the Governor-General, the Delegate of the Pope, my French colleague, and myself have adhered as a basis upon which the future position of Bishop Butros and his return are to be taken into consideration.

As it has not yet, so far as I am aware, been submitted to the Patriarch and his Bishops, it may be subjected to modifications in its form, and it is by no means certain that the clergy will accept it in principle. Should they not do so, it will be a matter of consideration what further measures will be necessary to put an end entirely to the present agitation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 359.

Rough Draft of a Declaration which it is proposed to submit to the Maronite Patriarch and his Bishops.

NOUS, ... , &c., désapprouvons de la manière la plus complète l'agitation et les intrigues que l'on a cherché et que l'on cherche à fomenter dans le Liban; nous reconnaissons que toutes les accusations portées contre son Excellence Rustem Pacha dans les requêtes et télégrammes qui ont été remis aux Consulats-Généraux de Beyrouth, et adressés à la Sublime Porte ainsi qu'aux Ambassades, telles que celles d'avoir violé le Règlement du Liban et d'avoir commis des actes arbitraires et tyranniques, accusations auxquelles ils ne se sont jamais associés, sont fausses et calomnieuses; nous reprouvons et condamnons de la façon la plus absolue ces intrigues et ces manœuvres qui agitent les esprits et qui menacent de troubler la tranquillité publique du pays, et nous rejettons toute espèce de solidarité avec leurs fauteurs.

No. 360.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 15.)

(No. 256.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October* 14, 1878.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 12th. Nothing has occurred to alter Count Andrassy's opinion, reported in my telegram of the same day, about obligation of Russia to complete evacuation of the country beyond limit of Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia within three months from ratification of Treaty of Berlin.

Count Zichy, however, has not reported the language attributed to Russian Ambassador, and as it is desirable that Count Andrassy should be informed of it from his own Agent, it would be well if the Grand Vizier made to him the same communication as he has done to Sir H. Layard.

No. 361.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 15.)

(No. 915.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 14, 1878.

TELEGRAM from Vice-Consul at Philippopolis, dated to-day:—

"Chabin Aga's son has been informed by the Russian lawyer who defended his father that order from St. Petersburg was received six days ago for the release of the prisoners, but that the order will be obeyed only when it suits authorities here.

"Treatment of prisoners, though improved, is still very harsh."

No. 362.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 15.)

(No. 916.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 14, 1878.

FOLLOWING telegram has been received from Mr. Calvert, dated Philippopolis, to-day:—

"I am informed that Russians are sending a sum of between 5,000,000 fr. and 6,000,000 fr., in specie, derived from revenues of Eastern Roumelia, to Sofia."

No. 363.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 15.)

(No. 917.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 15, 1878.*

GRAND VIZIER informs me that the Porte hopes to have succeeded in prevailing upon Albanians to surrender district of Gusenje to Montenegro, and that question of territorial cessions to Servia is in the way of satisfactory arrangement. That of Podgoritza and Spuz alone remain, and Russian Ambassador has given His Highness to understand that if Austria could be brought to consent to an exchange of these places against equivalent territory in Herzegovina, Russia would agree to it.

Grand Vizier earnestly begs Her Majesty's Government to assist Porte in effecting this exchange, which would secure complete execution of Treaty of Berlin.

No. 364.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 15.)

(No. 918.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 15, 1878.*

I UNDERSTAND that your Lordship is of opinion that according to the 4th paragraph of the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin, the amended organization of the law for Crete must be submitted to European Commission for Southern Roumelia.

There is hope that settlement of the Cretan question is about to be come to through our mediation. Is there not danger of its being reopened if the Commission is to interfere in the matter?

I should be glad to hear your Lordship's views on this subject, as it appears to me of great importance that the Cretan question should be speedily and finally settled.

No. 365.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 15.)

(No. 32.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 15, 1878.*

TSERETLEW intends raising and reserving for Governments points with regard to Article XXII of the Treaty. He says 50,000 troops of army of occupation may be apportioned between Bulgaria and Roumelia, as Russia thinks fit, and the expense is to be borne by country occupied. Thus Roumelia may be saddled with 49,999 men, and Bulgaria be charged with scarcely one man.

Frenchman has telegraphed to his Government. Please let me know your opinion by Thursday. I shall oppose pretension, as will nearly all the others; it is vital as regards the resources of the province.

In case question of interim Government is again raised, Austrian and French Commissioners will give opinion in Turks' favour. Dondoukoff has not only farmed dimes, but has sent money of Roumelian taxes to Sofia.

Russians, though conceding principle of our administering finances, raise all kinds of difficulties in detail, which, if accepted, would render our administration nugatory.

No. 366.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 15.)

(Telegraphic.) *Canea, Crete, October 15, 1878.*

THE Delegates signed this morning the document granting them concessions, which is being conveyed in a special steamer for ratification by the Porte.

No. 367.

Major Gordon to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 15.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, October 15, 1878.*

NO country except Russia appears to have specially appointed a Commissioner of Eastern Roumelian Boundary.

Representatives of Bulgarian Commission have addressed their Governments and await instructions.

No. 368.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 15.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, October 15, 1878.*

I SEE no prospect of any legislative measure for modifying the present disabilities passing this year; the Chambers separate without taking any other action but that of a general acceptance of a Treaty, as I reported in my telegram of the 13th instant. The next ordinary Session commences at the end of our November, and will probably last several months, and be followed by a general election of the Chambers convoked *ad hoc* to modify the constitution on this very point.

It was intended to pass some law as an instance of conferring certain civil Jewish rights, but no time was found for it on this occasion possible; an opportunity might be found during the next session, unless Government should fear it might produce too much bad feeling on the eve of a general election.

No. 369.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Colonel Home.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 15, 1878, 1·30 P.M.*

IN reply to your despatch No. 15, it appears that the Powers prefer that the Servian Commission should trace that portion of the frontier which is common to both Bulgaria and Servia.

Her Majesty's Government have no objection to accept this view; but technically it will be necessary either that the Bulgarian Commission shall formally approve the work of the Servian Commission as to this line, or else it must be approved by the Signatory Powers.

No. 370.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 533.) [B.B.]
My Lord, *Foreign Office, October 15, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Excellency the copy of a despatch which I have received from Sir H. Drummond Wolff, inclosing a letter from the Earl of Donoughmore, Her Majesty's Assistant Commissioner for the organization of Eastern Roumelia.

In this letter Lord Donoughmore gives a detailed account of the observations addressed to him at their first interview by Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff, the Imperial Russian Commissioner.

It would be superfluous for me to express any opinion upon language whose character will be readily appreciated by your Excellency, and which I do not doubt will be received with feelings, at least, of surprise by the Imperial Government. I will only call your especial attention to the fact that these expressions of unreserved hostility to England, and scorn for the Treaty of Berlin, were addressed to an English diplomatist by the highest Representative of the Imperial Russian authority in the Province of Eastern Roumelia.

It is my duty to request your Excellency to bring this matter to the notice of M. de Giers as one that merits the attention of the Imperial Government. I do not for

a moment entertain the idea that these sentiments will be shared by him. He will doubtless disclaim the intention of putting every obstacle in the way of the English programme, whatever it may be, or of dealing with the Treaty of Berlin as a "bouffonerie." But he cannot fail to see that the position of the official using this language gives to it a serious and sinister importance. It is well known to Her Majesty's Government that Russian officers of the highest rank in the occupying army are in the habit of expressing sentiments wholly inconsistent with an intention of faithfully carrying out the stipulations of the Treaty. But the desire for a war in which distinction may be won is natural to men of their profession; and the operation of this motive is so generally recognized that no official value is likely to be attached to their conversation. It is otherwise with the language which the Imperial Commissioner has used, not only to Lord Donoughmore, but to other influential persons. His language might be expected to reflect the pacific sentiments of the Imperial Cabinet, and it cannot be concealed that embarrassment of a very serious kind will result from the attitude he has assumed. The inhabitants of the province, whether Christian or Mussulman, naturally assume that sentiments of this character are not likely to be expressed by the highest Russian authority in the country, except with the acquiescence of the Russian Government; and they are encouraged to refuse or delay submission to those stipulations of the Treaty which are distasteful to them. Her Majesty's Government are interested, therefore, in bringing this circumstance to the notice of the Imperial Government, not merely in order to guard themselves from being held to have acquiesced in a derogatory estimate of the obligations imposed by the Treaty of Berlin; but also because the use of such language by such a personage tends to retard indefinitely the work of conciliation and peace which that instrument was designed to achieve.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 371.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Colonel Home, R.E.

(No. 23.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 15, 1878.*

I HAVE had under my consideration your despatch No. 15 of the 1st instant, in which you inquire whether the delimitation of the frontier which is common to Bulgaria and Servia should be carried out by the Bulgarian or by the Servian Commission.

In reply, I have informed you this day by telegraph that the other Powers appear to prefer that this line should be traced by the Servian Commission, and Her Majesty's Government have no objection to adopt the same view; but they consider that technically it will be necessary either that the Commission, of which you are a member, shall formally signify their approval of the work done by the Servian Commission, or else that it must receive the sanction of the Signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 372.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 16.)

(No. 130. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, September 30, 1878.*

I HAVE just wired as follows to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople:—

"Dervish Pasha departed yesterday for Erzinghian. Total troops marched there 6,000; Turkish squadron steamed last night for Constantinople with 5,000 troops on board; 1,000 quartered here."

Dervish Pasha having asked for a short leave of absence to proceed to Constantinople, and his request having been refused, he departed yesterday morning for Erzinghian, which is spoken of as the future head-quarters of the 4th Army Corps. Dervish Pasha is expected to reach Erzinghian in four or five days, when Koord Ismail Pasha will resume his post of Vali of Erzeroum, which is now filled provisionally by Hussein Avni Pasha.

Besides the six battalions and the prisoners belonging to the 4th Army Corps, other

battalions (the names of which it has proved impossible to find out) have been marched to Erzinghian. The total of this force amounts to 6,000 men.

The frigate "Muhbiri Surur," Rear-Admiral Arif Pasha, the iron-clad "Avni Illah," the transports "Sheref Kessan" and "Kaissarieh," and the despatch-boat "Nushat" steamed last evening for Constantinople, having on board the Zeibecks and other irregulars, as well as the remaining battalions of the Redifs. These troops, which are under the command of Ferik Arif Pasha, are reckoned to number together nearly 5,000 men, and represent what were originally thirteen battalions.

Six thousand rifles, 6,000 cases of munitions, besides provisions, &c., have been embarked here on board the Turkish squadron. There were already on board several old cannon and 16,000 large shot embarked at Batoum.

One thousand men, under the command of Ferik Osman Pasha, have been left as garrison at Trebizond, and two battalions are to be sent from Erzinghian to Rizeh.

Dervish Pasha has proposed to the Porte to erect fortifications at Trebizond and Rizeh.

Four hundred soldiers remain sick in the hospital here; there is not a single case of illness among the crews of the squadron.

I must say, to the credit of the Turkish soldiers and seamen, who have been made to work as no other troops could have endured, that during the three weeks which they spent here there has not been a single complaint against them on the part of any class or race of the population.

The Laz emigrants, who have to receive 500,000 piastres for their services as volunteers, and were to be paid by Dervish Pasha, having also no motive to be satisfied with their treatment here, had, it was rumoured, the intention to make a demonstration against him at the moment of his departure. About 100 of them surrounded, in fact, his carriage as he was leaving the town, but asked respectfully what was to be done with them. He answered that he had done all in his power to assist them, and was sorry to be unable to do more, but that he was proceeding to Erzinghian by order of the Porte.

Yussuf Pasha received instructions from his Government which informed him to have forwarded 1,000,000 piastres to his address to settle the account of the Lazes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 373.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 16.)

(No. 131. Political.) [B.B.]
My Lord, *Trebizond, September 30, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 128 of the 28th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of the petition addressed to me by the inhabitants of Hodvoitchoor.

Although Ispir is not under his jurisdiction, Yussuf Pasha, with whom I have spoken on the subject, has given orders to the Governor of Rizeh to proceed in person, or send a force to Hodvoitchoor for the protection of its inhabitants.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure in No. 373.

Petition addressed to Vice-Consul Biliotti by the Armenians of Khodoortchoor.

M. le Consul, *Trébizonde, le 28 Septembre, 1878.*

NOUS Soussignés, habitants de Kodoirkhour venons exposer à votre Seigneurie les misères et mauvais traitements auxquels nous sommes soumis dans ces derniers temps de la part des Turcs nos voisins, et qui vont en augmentant de jour en jour.

Nous venons vous exposer, M. le Consul, que nous habitants du Sandjak de Ghisghin, sujets fidèles et dévoués du Gouvernement Impérial, nous payons un tribut annuel de 200,000 piastres nous avons donné pour la guerre actuel un secours extraordinaire de 120,000 piastres, sans compter ce que nous avons donné en vivres et habillements selon

nos moyens, nous payons aussi 4,000 piastres par mois à un préposé du village nommé par le Gouvernement Impérial.

Mais malheureusement en échange de notre fidélité et de notre dévouement pour le Gouvernement nous ne voyons chaque jour qu'accroitre sur nous toutes sortes de tyranies et de vexations de la part des Turcs, lesquels non contents de dévaliser de temps en temps nos voyageurs, ils commencèrent à mettre la main sur nos biens, et sur nos maisons, sur les églises et sur les habitants.

En laissant de côté ceux des temps passés nous venons seulement vous rappeler, M. le Consul, ceux dont nous avons été victimes dans ces derniers temps.

Nous commencerons par un vol commis dans notre village par les malfaiteurs très-connus Salih Bairaktar et Togli Oglou avec ses compagnons, qui enlevèrent une somme de 120 livres Turques.

2. Un des mêmes, accompagné de son fils Chérif Agha assaillit le village de Garnich, tuant une personne et en emportant tout, laissèrent le village dans la misère.

3. Quelques-uns des nôtres devant se rendre à Erzéroum furent attaqués en sortant du village, dévalisés, et l'un d'eux fut tué par un coup de fusil.

4. Le fait déjà connu du village de Makourgut qui, un jour de fête, fut assailli et tout fut pillé; hommes et femmes furent liés dans l'église, tandis que les maisons étaient dévalisées, après quoi le butin fut chargé sur le dos des prêtres et des hommes qui furent forcés de le transporter à trois quarts d'heure de distance; cet événement causa un dommage de plus de 100,000 piastres.

5. Ces mêmes personnes, après quelque temps, voulant ouvrir une église du même village et ne pouvant y réussir, y mirent le feu et la détruisirent.

6. Dans le village de Kantzor ils pénétrèrent dans les maisons des deux prêtres Don Jacques et Don Antoine, où après avoir enlevé tout ce qu'il y avait, ils blessèrent aussi les prêtres.

Enfin, laissant de côté mille autres faits de moindre importance, tels que vols de bestiaux, de marchandises, et de mauvais traitement, envers les hommes et les femmes, nous venons vous exposer le dernier fait arrivé le 29 Août (v.s.) au village de Kantzor et qui a mis le comble à la misère de notre pays. Il a été commis par les nommés Chérif Agha et ses trois fils, Hussein, Khalid, et Togliali, son neveu Tcholak Mehmed, et un autre nommé Rechid avec son frère. Le père de ce dernier se trouve actuellement dans la prison de Trébizonde pour l'affaire du village de Mokourgut. Karâ Dérdi Oubasci avec ses compagnons, Kartal Oglou Hussein, Sivin Oglou Mevloud et ses compagnons, en tout environ soixante personnes, toutes armées, firent irruption dans notre village de Kantzor où, après avoir battu les gardiens du Gouvernement, blessé quelques-uns des nôtres, et tué la belle-sœur de notre Vicaire, ils entrèrent dans la maison du Vicaire Don Garabed Tchakalian, et enlevèrent tous les objets et effets sacrés de l'église qu'il gardait chez lui pour plus de sûreté, ils enlevèrent tout ce qu'il y avait dans la maison, puis mirent le feu et brûlèrent les 150 batisses composant tout le quartier, et aujourd'hui plus de 600 personnes sont réduits à la dernière et plus affreuse des misères, n'ayant ni pain ni argent, ni effets; et retirés sous des tentes. Ce fait inouï a complété notre ruine. La perte que nous venons d'éprouver dans ce pillage et cette dévastation s'élève à environ 2,800,000 piastres (28,000 livres Turques).

Nous nous jetons à vos pieds, M. le Consul, et avec les larmes aux yeux nous vous supplions d'avoir pitié de nous, et de considérer notre désespoir et la misère dans laquelle nous sommes plongés par ces fréquentes incursions des malfaiteurs, et de vouloir bien intervenir auprès de votre Ambassade pour qu'elle agisse au nom de l'humanité auprès du Gouvernement Impérial pour qu'un terme soit mis à nos misères.

Dans l'espoir que vous voudrez bien avoir compassion de nous, et appuyer notre cause auprès de votre Ambassade,

Nous osons nous déclarer, &c.

(Signé) DON JOSEPH CHURUCIAN.
DON ANTOINE OSGANIAN.
DON PIERRE ABAZIAN.
DON PHILIPPE TCHINGIRIAN.
DON SÉRAPHIN MÉLIKIAN.
DON PASCAL TANOUKIAN.
DON JACQUES MAGHDÉSIAN.
DON J. BAPTISTE DÉROGHIANESIAN.
DON SÉRAPHIN DUDMARIAN.
DON PASCAL CHAMARIAN.

No. 374.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 16.)

(No. 132. Political.) [B.B.]

My Lord. *Trebizond, September 30, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch to your Lordship No. 127 of the 25th instant, and in continuation of the details contained in its inclosure, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a letter which was addressed to my clerk, M. Hekimian, by M. Seropian, a respectable young Armenian of Erzeroum, who was here lately, and whom I had begged, in the absence of a regular correspondent, to communicate any important occurrence which might take place on the evacuation of Armenia by the Russians.

The previous letter written by M. Seropian, which referred, no doubt, to the details mentioned by Mr. Cole, has never been received.

I have further the honour to inclose translations of two telegrams sent by General Lazareff to Koord Ismaïl Pasha, and of one to General Doukazkoy, Commander of Erzeroum.

The first, dated the 19th instant, refers to the outrages committed on the Armenians of Erzeroum by Mussulmans, those, no doubt, whose imprisonment is mentioned by M. Seropian, and urges Ismaïl Pasha to take measures for the protection of the Christians after the departure of the Russian troops, inviting him at the same time to make the measures known to him.

The second, dated the following day, speaks of a telegram received from the terror-stricken Armenians, who have no faith in Turkish officers, and, from fear of the Kurds, were already emigrating to Russia. It warns Ismaïl Pasha that a single word would depopulate Armenia of its Christian inhabitants, but that the Czar has ordered otherwise. Ismaïl Pasha is begged to constrain the Armenians to remain in their homes, and to communicate the measures adopted to prevent emigration.

The third telegram, addressed to General Doukazkoy, who is ordered to make its contents known to the Armenian community, is very likely the Proclamation mentioned by M. Seropian as having been posted up in the streets of Erzeroum. General Lazareff says that special cases must not disturb public peace; that troubles being opposed to the interests of the Porte he has full faith in the measures to be adopted; that the Armenians must behave as it becomes Christians, and that the reforms stipulated in the Treaty of San Stefano have not been annulled by the Treaty of Berlin.

I have myself no later news from Erzeroum; but I am told by parties who have received telegrams that no further occurrences have taken place since the departure of the Russians, whose rumoured return was premature. However, the Armenians continue to be in apprehension, but General Lazareff himself seems to entertain little fear as to their security.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure 1 in No. 374.

M. Séropian to M. Hekimian.

Monsieur, *Erzéroum, le 4/16 Septembre, 1878.*

PAR une lettre du 3/15 courant je me suis empressé de vous relater les faits qui ont rendu mémorable cette journée. Depuis, les coupables ont été arrêtés et mis en prison.

Comme je vous l'ai déjà dit on avait télégraphié à divers personnages impériaux. En réponse, le Général Lazareff a télégraphié de Kars:—

"Arméniens, soyez tranquilles; de pareils faits ont coûté et coûteront encore très-cher aux Turcs," &c.

Le lendemain on a reçu une réponse du Patriarche Nersès, de Constantinople, ainsi conçue:—

"Je me suis rendu à la Sublime Porte; le Grand Vizier ayant entendu ma protestation, m'a donné ordre de vous télégraphier que des réformes, des améliorations, &c., ont déjà eu, et auront encore lieu."

Ce soir les autorités ecclésiastiques ont reçu un télégramme d'Ismaïl Pacha et de Hadji Hussein Avni Pacha ainsi conçu:—

"Nous vous remercions de ce que vous avez vécu paisiblement et amicalement jusqu'aujourd'hui. Vous avez eu quelques petites souffrances, privations, embarras; mais tout est fini maintenant. Nous vous prions seulement de faire partir avec des marques d'honneur et d'amitié nos amis les Russes. Le Vali de votre place, Hadji Hussein Pacha, vient chez vous; il est chargé de veiller à votre bien-être, et à l'amélioration de votre condition," &c.

Hadji Hussein Pacha vient d'arriver; une troupe de soldats et plusieurs personnes sont allées officiellement à sa rencontre. Les Turcs sont enfin de retour; voyons ce qu'il en deviendra.

Les Arméniens de notre ville ont dernièrement manifesté une grande agitation; ils avaient raison d'être pris de panique, ayant des motifs pour cela; ils ont commis des actes qui pourraient donner lieu à des représailles. Cependant, les Turcs paraissent désespérés, découragés, et irrésolus.

Le Général Lazareff envoya, il y a quelques jours, de Kars une Proclamation imprimée afin de calmer l'émigration Arménienne. Cette Proclamation ayant été affichée sur tous les murs, le désir d'émigrer s'est beaucoup calmé. Mais, hélas! l'effet produit n'a duré que trois jours. Il y a maintenant une étincelle qui peut rallumer le feu d'un moment à l'autre.

Il n'y a pas autant d'émigrants de notre ville que des villages environnants. On à cinquante familles de la basse classe, celle de M. Pastermagan (notable Arménien Grégorien) exceptée.

Il y a plus de 100 familles qui ont émigré des villages; quelques-unes se sont établies à Erzéroum même, les autres sont allées à Kars, &c.

Tous les paysans avaient l'intention de partir, mais les autorités ecclésiastiques ont parcouru les villages pendant un mois, y ont prêché les conséquences funestes des émigrations en général, et surtout de celles qui sont précipitées, et ils sont parvenus par ce moyen à rassurer les paysans débonnaires, et à empêcher leur départ.

De la plaine d'Alashgherd, qui compte plus de 110 villages (Zedékian, Mollah-Suleïman, Khasdour, Khachi, Mourad, Utch Kilissé, &c.), de 10,000 à 15,000 personnes ont émigré dont les plaines d'Erivan; parmi ces familles, il y en a quelques-unes de Yezidi (de Ghergher, Navig, &c.), ainsi que quelques Arméniens Catholiques (de Mollah-Suleïman, &c.). Le reste est Arménien Grégorien.

Avant leur départ plusieurs ont incendié leurs maisons, leurs fourrages, leurs blés, &c., et n'ont emporté avec elles que les objets les plus nécessaires.

Je viens d'apprendre qu'un officier Russe qui leur aurait conseillé de se réfugier en Russie a été cause de cette émigration. Pourtant le Gouvernement Russe y est tout-à-fait contraire.

Les Turcs qui ont quitté la ville pendant l'occupation Russe ne sont qu'au nombre de 1,500 familles; ils commencent à revenir nettement. Il n'y a aucun soldat Turc ici, sauf quelques officiers qui ont accompagné Hadji Hussein Pacha.

Les Russes partent continuellement; il y a actuellement ici, et aux alentours, 20,000 soldats, 2,000 dragons, et 2,000 Cosaques; ils sont tous sous la tente. Les Russes ont l'intention de laisser ici 600 soldats, 200 dragons, et 60 Cosaques, après leur départ.

Il y a quelques jours M. G. Gamsaraganoff, jeune Arménien distingué, a été nommé Consul de Russie en notre ville.

Le Gouverneur Militaire Major Doukazkoy a l'intention d'aller, d'ici à quelques jours, habiter aussi sous les tentes, qui sont à un quart d'heure de la ville.

Nous voilà au $\frac{8}{9}$; les Russes auraient dû être déjà partis; pourtant ils sont encore ici; en un mot, leurs projets sont incompréhensibles.

(Signé) ANTOINE SEROPIAN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 374.

Lieutenant-General Lazareff to Mushir Ismaïl Pasha.

(Translation.)
(Telegraphic.) *Kars, August 31/September 12*, 1878, 8·45 P.M.

THE Military Governor of Erzeroum has informed me that last night a number of Turks entered the dwelling of an Armenian and pillaged it, wounding one man and outraging one woman. To-day also a Turk has wounded an Armenian, who ventured to speak in opposition to his threats against Christians. The trembling people assembled in thousands at the Bishop's door, making known the increasing threats of the Turks, and their own greatly perplexed situation.

While directing General Doukazkoy to adopt every possible means until the last moment of our soldiers remaining in Erzeroum for the preservation of order in the town, and for the protection of the persons and property of all, I appeal to your Excellency not to refuse, on your part, to put in execution every sort of means, and to use your moral influence, for the protection and quiet of the Christian population.

Mushir, I am fully convinced that for you, bearing as you do in your person the deep reverence of the people and the soldiery, and also the wide jurisdiction and confidence vested in you by His Majesty the Sultan, it will be easy to check the excited Mussulman populace, and to create among Christians a full persuasion of the firm justice and the fatherly protection of the Ottoman Government for individuals and for the public.

In the Proclamation which I have made to the Armenian community, you see with what conviction and with what full faith I look at the future condition of the Christians found under the Ottoman Government, for I venture to think that your Excellency will attentively consider the things I have made known, and will pity the Christian community.

I beg that you will do me the favour to make known to me your arrangements, that I may inform the Grand Duke.

Inclosure 3 in No. 374.

Lieutenant-General Lazareff to Mushir Ismaïl Pasha.

(Translation.)
(Telegraphic.) *Kars, September 12*, 1878.

YESTERDAY, by telegraph, I asked that you would use means for the protection of the persons and property of Christians. To-day I have received a telegram from the Armenian community, which is in very great terror, and does not see sufficient security in the officers of the Ottoman Government, and seeing fierce oppressions, is ready to cast itself into our territory. From fear of the Kurds emigration of Armenians from Alashgerd has already commenced, and the Christians of Khorassan in particular are beginning to follow their example.

Mushir, you are aware that personally, and also in accordance with instructions received from the Representative of His Majesty the Czar, I have exerted my whole moral influence to keep the Armenian community in its place, assuring the people on my honour that their best hope of security is to have full faith in, and to implicitly obey, the Ottoman Government.

Mushir, I am altogether convinced that you are of the same mind with me, and that you will put forth special and effective efforts for the quieting of the Armenian community, and thus put an end to their troubled condition, and that you will constrain them to remain in their homes, and to engage in their peaceful occupations. I need not persuade you that one word of mine—"emigrate to our territory"—would depopulate all your Christian provinces; but in my heart and soul, being a well-wisher of the Armenian community, and knowing the sacrifices and losses that attend the emigration of great multitudes, and having strong orders from his Highness the Grand Duke, I urge you, honourable Mushir, zealously to pursue this work, and you will be blessed of those people who find rest under the hand of a strong and righteous jurisdiction, and in security they will be gained, with the fruits of their labours.

I beg you to inform me what measures you adopt to prevent emigration.

Inclosure 4 in No. 374.

Lieutenant-General Lazareff to Major-General Doukazkoy.

(Translation.)
(Telegraphic.) *Kars, September 12*, 1878, 2·15 P.M.

YOU will read this telegram which I send by your hand to Ismaïl Pasha. By means of the Bishop make it known to the Armenian community.

Being, without doubt, their sincere friend, I am altogether without anxiety as to their future. Special cases of disturbance should not be the occasion of general agitation. It is not in the interest of the Ottoman Government to trouble the laborious peaceful Armenian community, who enrich the Ottoman treasury, and working at their trades, or engaged in traffic, are the foundation of the abundant increase in wealth of the country.

Make known to them the substance of the telegrams I have sent to Ismail Pasha, and tell them that his Excellency has had communication with his superiors in Constantinople. I am convinced of the sense of justice of Ismail Pasha, and that the soldiers under his command will bring with them a sure guarantee of security to the persons of the Christian communities of the regions we are about to leave.

At the same time it is necessary that the Chiefs of the Armenian communities demand that the people be restrained, and that they remain in appropriate attitude, and that they conduct themselves as becomes Christians.

The reforms which are provided for in the Treaty of San Stefano are not obliterated in the Treaty of Berlin.

No. 375.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 16.)

(No. 133. Political.)

My Lord, *Trebizond, September 30, 1878.*

PRINCE TSERETELLI, referred to in my despatches Nos. 74 and 93 of the present year, having written to me after his return to Russia, it may interest your Lordship to know what has happened to him.

General Oklobjo, on his arrival to Poti from Batoum, sent for Prince Tseretelli, and upbraided him for his voyage to Trebizond and the nonsense he had written, and the proposals he had made to Dervish Pasha, to whom he had confided his projects. He asked him whether he knew that he could have him shot within four-and-twenty hours, and deprived him of his certificate as correspondent.

However, Prince Tseretelli adds that he is sure not to be condemned, there being no proofs against him, but that he will nevertheless be continually watched by the police, which will prevent his living in security.

He begs me not to mention my knowing him, and in case there is a Steam Navigation Company running at Batoum to try and obtain for him an employment in its office there, which, he thinks, may afford him a certain amount of protection, and may result in reciprocal advantage at some future period.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 376.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 16.)

(No. 134. Political.)

My Lord, *Trebizond, October 1, 1878.*

I HAVE had occasion to hear from an engineer of my friends, who was two years since employed in surveying the Sacearia (Sangarius), some details which I consider worth to submit to your Lordship, especially as I think that this river has never been surveyed before.

The Sacearia runs near Lake Sabanja, and has its estuary in the Black Sea between the mines of Heraclea, about forty miles to the right, and the Islet of Kerfew, twenty miles to the left, which is used as an anchorage by vessels loading wood at the mouth of the river.

In a commercial and industrial point of view the valley of the Sacearia offers the resources of a rich soil and of beautiful forests, which last furnish nearly all the fuel used at Constantinople, and the timber required in the arsenal of the Government. Rice is grown, and its culture can, with means of communication and transport, attain an immense development.

In a political point of view the line of Ismid, Sabanja, and the Sacearia is a natural defence which would render impossible to an invasion from Asia the approach of Constantinople, and which would prevent the occupation of the Bosphorus by an army coming from Europe, as the occupant of that line is the master of the Asiatic shore of the Straits.

This line, which the Byzantines and subsequently the Turks, have tried to consolidate by means of a canal from Lake Sabanja to Ismid, has been at all times a frontier line.

The Sacearia, which is deep enough at its mouth to have offered shelter in winter to British gun-boats, can be made navigable up to Lake Sabanja with an expense of a few hundred pounds for vessels drawing no less than six feet.

In time of peace important profits are sure to be realized by any company venturing on the undertaking, while in a war the presence of squadrons at Ismid and at the mouth of the Sacearia, with a few gun-boats in the river and a small force of troops on its banks, would present an impregnable line of defence.

The plans drawn by the engineer in question (which are in his possession, and can be obtained if required), had for object the development of the commercial and industrial resources of that region—a project which the last political events rendered impossible.

But it will no doubt be revived, and as besides the commercial benefits which it presents there are invaluable strategical advantages, I have considered it my duty to call your Lordship's attention to the subject, as Her Majesty's Government may not find it convenient to allow the undertaking to fall into foreign hands.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 377.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 16.)

(No. 135. Political.)

My Lord, *Trebizond, October 1, 1878.*

IT is with the greatest diffidence that I venture to respectfully submit a few remarks suggested to me by the last occurrences in Armenia.

Of all the Christians in Turkey the Armenians are the only ones who have not derived from the last war the same benefit as the other races, some of which, the Bulgarians at all events, were less deserving than them of consideration.

The hopes which they had entertained for some time, that Europe would have promoted their national aspirations, having vanished, they found themselves again in presence of the Russians and of the Turks.

The Armenians are alive to the fact that all hopes of future emancipation are lost for them if they pass under Russian rule; but at the same time their character is so timorous that, rather than facing the Turks after having deeply wounded their feelings, those living in the occupied districts preferred the former alternative. However, their emigration to Russia is not encouraged, and, in order to prevent it, the Russian Commander-in-chief goes so far as to assure, on his honour and soul, his co-religionists, who have always been represented as running the greatest danger, that they have nothing to fear.

The Armenians are an element which must remain in Turkey to stir up future complications. The ground has been well prepared by allowing them, during the Russian occupation, to become overbearing to the Mussulmans. It will be difficult to fill up the new gap which has widened that already existing between the two races.

The unruly Kurds are another powerful agent in the hands of Russia; her atrocities and depredations committed by them would fail to arouse public indignation in Europe, and furnish Russia with a pretext for intervention, unless they are perpetrated on Christians.

As so to attain their ends the Russians are sacrificing the very Christians whom it was their avowed object to protect in waging war against Turkey.

I use meaningly the word sacrificing, for ruled by a strong hand the Mussulmans and the Kurds [illegible] could be restrained but Russia I have to find the means to excite the fear of the Armenians, and thereby encourage the passions of the Mussulmans.

We have a recent example in the occurrences at Erzeroum.

The two cases of aggression mentioned by General Lazareff himself in his telegram to Ismail Pasha (Inclosure No. 2 in despatch No. 132 of the 30th ultimo) were not sufficient to justify all the importance given to them by the Armenians.

The immediate apprehension and punishment by the Russians, who were masters of the town, of the culprits, would have quelled the fears of the timorous. But it had been stated by the Russian Plenipotentiaries at the Congress of Berlin, that the departure of their troops would have placed in jeopardy the safety of the Christians in Turkey, and it was necessary that some incident should happen also in Asia just as they

were about to leave, to justify their statements. It was also necessary for them that this incident should be widely known, and they permitted the thousands of Armenians whom they had allowed to congregate to run from the Russian authorities to the French Consul and to the single American missionary for protection, being certain that they would not have failed, as they did not, to make special reports, and even forward sensational telegrams.

I am far from saying that there is perfect security for the Christians in Armenia. In the present troubled condition of the country the life and property of the Mussulmans themselves is at the mercy of their ruffianly co-religionists and of the Kurds. But speaking of the Christians alone, I am inclined to believe that only particular cases of vengeance are to be apprehended, but not a general persecution.

To prevent the Turks to commit outrages on the Armenians can be attained, but to keep the Kurds in order is a more difficult task. However, in 1834, all the country between the confines of Arabia, those of Persia, and a line running from Bayazid to Samsoun, and near the coast of the Black Sea so far as Angora, was in the almost sole possession of the Kurds.

A Turkish army of 16,000 or 20,000 men, with 4 guns, and an energetic commander (Reshid Mehmed Pasha) compelled them to submit. The same result could be now more easily attained with disciplined troops and improved arms, but the difficulty is, once they are subdued, to maintain the Kurds in obedience, by preventing Russia stirring up their nefarious propensities.

By the extension of her frontiers in Asia, her action will be more direct in Turkey, while her footing in the Caucasus will be more firmly established.

The Caucasus, as it was administered hitherto, was a great point of weakness for Russia in Asia. The native populations being dissatisfied with the sort of martial law under which they lived were hostile to the Government, and always ready to avail themselves of all opportunities that might have led to their emancipation. Their hopes have been frustrated hitherto, and there may be a long lapse of time before they are revived.

Their aspirations, which have been detailed in previous reports, can only be realized with the support of a powerful nation; and when, or if ever, this support will be forthcoming, has become for the natives the question of the moment.

Should at this juncture Russia modify her present system, which seems to be recognized as abortive in the Caucasus, and enter on a somewhat liberal path, the native populations may readily rally round her, and from hostile become most faithful subjects.

Presumable administrative reforms in the Caucasus are not a mere supposition on my part. It is rumoured that such is not only her intention, but that the beginning of a more liberal system has been inaugurated, by the abolition of the existing restriction respecting the teaching of the Georgian language.

Although these reforms may never be thoroughly carried out, sufficient changes may be introduced to entice the populations with the hope of further ameliorations, the only one which, according to appearances, is now left to them, for some time to come, at all events.

In fact, Turkey has been crushed; the power of Russia alone is known by recent deeds in this quarter, and brutal force imposes on semi-barbarous populations. Under these circumstances, a moral influence, however exalted it may be, would not prevent the power of Russia to become formidable, not only in the Caucasus, but also in Turkey.

An attack in the Black Sea, which was hitherto one of the most vulnerable parts of the Empire, and that from which an efficient check could be made on Russia advancing in Central Asia, will become henceforth almost an impossibility.

Her Majesty's Government having undertaken to defend the present Asiatic territories of the Sultan by force of arms against future Russian aggression, the share of Great Britain will, of course, be in proportion with the power of Turkey to provide to her own defence. The reforms to be introduced are calculated to attain this end, and to diminish the share of British responsibility as fast as they improve the condition of the country.

There are certainly great difficulties to contend with in Turkey itself, though the populations are anxiously waiting for ameliorations; but there is no doubt that the greatest obstacles will be thrown in the way by Russia. Besides the usual intrigues at Constantinople, the Armenians and the Kurds will be made to play a prominent part for the achievement of her ends.

The British name has always exercised, and exercises, a magic influence in Anatolia,

and reforms under the auspices of Her Majesty's Government are the only ones which have a chance of success. But it is to be foreseen that, even with the best intentions, all the efforts of the Porte will be foiled if the assistance given it is only of a moral order.

In the meantime, our commercial communications with Persia through Armenia will entirely depend on Russia's good-will; British capital and enterprise, which could find an inexhaustible field of operation in Anatolia, will remain inactive; and, above all, Russia will have a free field in Central Asia, and threaten our interests in India without her entertaining any fear for the Caucasus, which, being her base of operations, would, if it were vulnerable, render all her plans abortive.

The occupation of Armenia by a British force, by presenting an insuperable barrier to Russian intrigue, would entirely alter the case to our advantage.

The Armenians would see their best wishes realized by enjoying perfect security and the benefit of an Administration than which they ever dreamt a better one; the Kurds would be kept in obedience; our communications with Persia would be secure; and all reforms not only possible, but, so to say, easy.

Cyprus being occupied will not fail to become a centre from which progress will spread on the coasts of Syria and Caramania, and extend gradually to the northern districts of Anatolia.

Armenia likewise occupied would simultaneously exercise a similar influence towards the south, and render the regeneration of Asia a work of comparatively short duration.

Under similar circumstances, British capital will find sufficient security to flow in Anatolia, and it is only in that case that the means of communication and transport, which are the main requisites for the development of its resources, and the consequent diminution of British responsibility, will be possible.

But the resources of a country so rich in agricultural and mineral products, in forests and possible industries, cannot attain their full development with the present scanty population disseminated on its extensive territory.

The construction of railways and the spirit of speculation will, of course, attract a number of Englishmen in Anatolia, but if, together with them, British colonists were induced to settle in the country, their active energy would stir up the apathy of the natives. If a foreign element is not introduced, a long time will elapse before the existing habits are eradicated, while the example of the new settlers, and the necessity to follow in the wake unless the natives choose to starve, will regenerate Asia with a rapidity which will outrench the most sanguine expectations.

Not only this, but by colonization our interests will become so blended with those of the country that, whatever may be the fate of Turkey in remote times, our position in Asia will have become inexpugnable, and will allow us to provide at all times the means to defend efficiently our interests in India whenever they may be menaced by Russia, by threatening the base of their operations in the Caucasus.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 378.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 16.)

(No. 101. Political.)

My Lord, *Canea, Crete, October 2, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 17 of the 9th ultimo, having reference to the publication of certain communications made to me by Costaki Pasha, Governor-General of Crete, which his Excellency had wished to be treated as confidential. I was instructed to express to Costaki Pasha your Lordship's regret that anything should have appeared in the papers made public by Her Majesty's Government which could be supposed to have the effect of making his position more embarrassing. I translated to his Excellency the whole of your Lordship's despatch, which concluded by assuring him that in any future publication great care will be taken not to include anything which he may have imparted to me under the seal of confidence.

Costaki Pasha expressed himself as perfectly satisfied with the explanation offered,

and begged me to convey to your Lordship his deep sense of the courteous terms in which I had been authorized to make it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 379.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October 16.*)

(No. 103. Political.) [B.B.]
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, October 3, 1878.*

IN Inclosure No. 3 of my despatch No. 99 to your Lordship I mentioned that the Imperial Commissioner had decided that the Delegates of the Cretan National Assembly should draw up a list of their demands, with a view to their being finally taken into consideration. I have now the honour to transmit a translation of their demands, a duplicate copy of which I have already sent to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure in No. 379.

List of Demands put forward by Cretan Delegates.

(Traduction.)

LE Gouverneur-Général serait nommé pour cinq ans par la Sublime Porte et appartiendrait à la nationalité et à la religion de la majorité des habitants de l'île.

2. L'Assemblée Générale serait composée comme il suit: les districts contenant une population également distribuée entre les deux religions enverraient à l'Assemblée deux Députés Chrétiens et deux Musulmans. Dans les districts où l'un des éléments est en majorité il serait élu trois Députés de l'élément en majorité et un de celui en minorité. Enfin, dans les districts dont tous les habitants appartiennent à la même religion, tous les quatre Députés seraient de la religion de leurs électeurs.

3. La réunion annuelle de l'Assemblée Générale serait de deux mois. Elle tiendrait ses séances publiquement. Elle aurait le droit de s'occuper tout de suite à compléter la législation Ottomane aujourd'hui en vigueur, en rédigeant, conformément aux besoins locaux, la procédure civile et pénale et la loi communale, qui font encore défaut.

La législation ainsi complétée pour la Crète ne serait pas modifiée qu'à la demande de l'Assemblée-Générale et à l'autorisation préalable du Gouvernement Impérial. Mais si des besoins purement locaux l'exigeraient, l'Assemblée Générale pour y satisfaire aurait le droit de voter des lois se rapportant aux moyens de communication, aux travaux d'utilité publique, à la fondation des caisses de crédit, à la facilitation du commerce et de l'industrie et de l'agriculture, et au progrès de l'instruction publique.

4. L'île serait divisée en un nombre convenable d'arrondissements administratifs, dont les Chefs appartiendraient à la même religion que la majorité des habitants de leur arrondissement.

5. Les Conseils Administratifs seraient élus et composés comme auparavant, mais les employés du Gouvernement n'en feraient pas partie à l'avenir.

6. Le pouvoir judiciaire serait complétement indépendant du pouvoir exécutif.

La compétence et la juridiction des Tribunaux de divers degrés seraient fixées par la procédure civile.

Toutefois les Présidents des Tribunaux de Première Instance, le Président et les membres de la Cour d'Appel devraient être docteurs ou licenciés en droit, ainsi que les Procureurs, Vice-Procureurs et les Juges d'Instruction, qui devraient être nommés. Les arrêts de la Cour d'Appel ne seraient pas appelés devant la Cour de Cassation.

7. Le service administratif serait simplifié en supprimant les places des Monchavers et de Monavius.

8. Les deux langues seraient également en usage à tous les Bureaux de l'Administration. Toutefois, vu que Chrétiens et Musulmans de l'île se servent exclusivement de la langue Grècque et ne comprennent guère qu'elle, les discussions de l'Assemblée Générale et des Tribunaux se feront en Grec. Tous les employés devraient aussi pouvoir parler cette langue.

9. Excepté le Gouverneur-Général, tous les employés seraient pris parmi les indigènes ou parmi ceux qui sont depuis longtemps établis dans l'île.

10. L'armée régulière demeurerait cantonnée dans les forteresses du littoral. Le maintien de l'ordre et la police seraient confiés à un corps de gendarmerie, dépendant du Gouvernement Général, ayant une caisse de rentes à lui, et composé exclusivement de soldats et officiers indigènes, Musulmans et Chrétiens, proportionnément à la population respective de ces deux religions.

Les habitants de l'île ne seraient sujets à aucun autre recrutement.

11. Afin de soulager l'agriculture et la caisse publique et pour éviter les inconvénients provenant de la manière actuelle de lever la dîme, cet impôt serait levé à l'avenir aux bureaux de la Douane. A cet effet, une surtaxe de 10 pour cent y serait perçue.

12. On tâcherait d'introduire une économie convenable aux dépenses. La dépense pour l'armée régulière ne serait pas portée à la charge du budget de l'île. La moitié de l'excédant des recettes sur les dépenses obtenu serait consacrée à l'exécution des travaux d'utilité publique, après résolution de l'Assemblée Générale, qui aurait le droit de vérifier les comptes et de discuter le budget de chaque année.

13. Le cours forcé du papier-monnaie dans l'île serait aboli. Les appointements des employés seraient également payés en espèces.

14. La colonisation d'émigrants dans l'île serait défendue.

15. Il serait permis de fonder des sociétés pour l'avancement de l'instruction publique, des imprimeries et des journaux conformément aux lois de l'Empire y relatives.

16. Les dispositions de la Constitution Ottomane ne seraient pas appliquées en Crète, ainsi que les Lois et Iradés contraires au Réglement Organique.

(*a.*) Une amnistie générale sera proclamée. Les impôts arriérés ne seront pas exigés.

(*b.*) Les habitants garderont leurs armes, mais il leur sera défendu de les porter sans permission de l'autorité.

(*c.*) Un arrangement définitif sera trouvé pour les dettes antérieures à l'insurrection de 1866, afin de soulager les débiteurs indigents.

(*d.*) Le prosélytisme restera interdict. Mais chacun sera libre d'embrasser la religion qu'il préfère sans être puni d'exile et sans perdre ses droits d'héritage. Cette disposition sera également applicable à ceux qui ont déjà antérieurement changé de religion.

(*e.*) Les biens confisqués ou vendus par la raison que leurs possesseurs ont pris part à l'insurrection de 1866 leur seront rendus. Il leur sera en outre permis, même s'ils n'habitent pas l'île, d'en disposer à leur gré.

(*f.*) Le réglement des banques des orphelins Chrétiens soumis à l'approbation de la Sublime Porte de l'année 1870, par les cinq démogerontïes de l'île sera sanctionné.

(*g.*) Des bureaux des hypothèques et des notariats seront érèés dans l'île, qui rédigeraient aussi les titres de propriété, excepté les "ténugates" (titres des propriétés appartenant aux mosquées).

No. 380.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October 16.*)

(No. 104. Political.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, October 7, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, copies of three despatches which I have written to his Excellency Sir Austen Layard, viz.: (1) about the appointment of a Christian Governor-General to Crete, (2) respecting the return of the Mussulman peasantry to their homes, and (3) showing the modifications made by the Imperial Commissioner in the demands presented by the Christian delegates.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

P.S.—I regret that there is no time to copy the modified demands referred to in Inclosure No. 3, but a copy has been sent to Her Majesty's Embassy.

T. B. S.

Inclosure 1 in No. 380.

Consul Sandwith to Sir A. H. Layard.

Canea, Crete, October 4, 1878.

Sir,

ON the 1st instant I had the honour to receive the following telegram from your Excellency:—

"(Confidential.)

"I have every reason to think that the Porte will consent to a Christian Governor being appointed for Crete for a period of five years, but according to the Grand Vizier, Costaki Pasha is very unpopular with the Mussulman inhabitants, and therefore his Highness is of opinion that it would be better to appoint Photiades Bey, the Turkish Minister at Athens, or Nikolaki Pasha, as Governor. Try and persuade the Cretans to accept this proposition, which I trust may lead to a settlement of difficulties. The Grand Vizier informs me that Kavouraki has been allowed to return to Crete, Costaki Pasha having no objection to it."

With regard to the last paragraph, Hassan Bey Kavouraki landed at this town a few hours after the above telegram reached me, and immediately went to the Vali imploring to be allowed to remain. Costaki Pasha, however, would not hear of his remaining here, and had him put on board the steamer again and sent back to Constantinople. His Excellency told me that he never contemplated the possibility of his returning until the reorganization of the island was complete, as he was certain that his restless spirit of intrigue would tempt him to interfere in local politics again. The Grand Vizier had evidently confounded this Kavouraki with a certain Koyoumjaki, also an exile, whose return the Vali had consented to.

Although the Cretan Christians would prefer to retain as Governor-General Costaki Pasha, who has gained a great ascendancy over them from his well-known character for justice and the uniform kindness of his demeanour, they, nevertheless, have no pretension of choosing their Governor, and would gladly welcome Nikolaki Pasha among them again. As your Excellency is aware, he was very popular in the comparatively small district he formerly administered, and his success there offers a good criterion of his merits, as it is the most turbulent part of Crete, and Nikolaki Pasha has qualities which could not fail to make him respected and beloved everywhere. What knowledge the Cretan leaders, during their frequent visits to Athens, have obtained of Photiades Bey, has been favourable to him. I therefore had the honour, on the 3rd instant, to send your Excellency this telegram:—

"The appointment to the post of Governor-General of Nikolaki Pasha would be very popular; neither would there be any objection to the appointment of Photiades Bey, Minister at Athens. I wrote to your Excellency by last post about Costaki Pasha."

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 380.

Consul Sandwith to Sir A. H. Layard.

Canea, Crete, October 6, 1878.

Sir,

IN my despatch of the 1st instant I had the honour to inform your Excellency that a fresh effort was making to induce the Mussulman peasantry to return to their farms. Happily this second attempt has met with more success, the last two days witnessing a stream of these poor, long-suffering people flowing along the roads leading east and west from this town, and the movement is general throughout the islands. Only the men and lads, fully armed, have as yet ventured forth, but if the pacification of the island is effected, it will not be long before they are followed by their entire families.

It is due to his Highness Midhat Pasha to say that he contributed not a little to the result thus attained. Knowing that the movement was being opposed by certain Mussulmans belonging to the town, he assembled several leading men both of the refugees and the resident townspeople, and showed the former the folly of not at once availing themselves of the opportunity now offered them of returning home without having recourse to fresh bloodshed. The great consideration which his Highness enjoys among all classes of Mahommedans has had the effect of counteracting the efforts of the handful of intriguers who have hitherto opposed the movement.

I have had the honour to-day of telegraphing the above news to your Excellency and to the Marquis of Salisbury in these words:—

"The Mahommedan population are now returning home. The movement is general."

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 3 in No. 380.

Consul Sandwith to Sir A. H. Layard.

Canea, Crete, October 6, 1878.

Sir,

IN my despatch of the 30th ultimo I had the honour to inform your Excellency that it had been decided that the Delegates of the Cretan National Assembly should send in a list of their demands to the Imperial Commissioner, who, conjointly with the Vali and Salim Effendi, should examine them and decide which were acceptable and which inacceptable; and I added that it was the Commissioner's intention to invite me to be present at their deliberations.

The demands of the Delegates were handed in to the Commissioner on the 1st instant, and the next two days were wasted in a futile attempt on the part of my Austrian colleague to induce the Delegates to acknowledge that the provisions of the Ottoman Constitution were applicable to Crete, so far as they were not in opposition to the Organic Law. That gentleman had persuaded Ghazi Mukhtar Pasha that he could come to a satisfactory arrangement with the Delegates, through his personal influence with them, without reference to his official capacity, as he acknowledged that he had no authority to act otherwise than as a private individual. As was to be foreseen, the well-meant efforts of my colleague were ineffectual, but I was chiefly concerned at the delay thus occasioned, from the knowledge I had acquired that the Greek party in the island had latterly been redoubling their exertions to create dissensions among the members of the National Assembly. I am fully persuaded of the good faith of the Delegates, and of their earnest desire to come to an honourable understanding with the Commissioner, nor can there be a doubt that this sentiment is general throughout the island; at the same time, considerable sums of money continue to be remitted here from the Committee in Athens to gain over adherents to their cause, and a preliminary oath of secrecy is exacted from every person before he is initiated into their designs. Every day that passes is so much gain to that cause, and therefore it was a subject of satisfaction to me to receive on the 4th instant an invitation from his Excellency the Commissioner to attend a meeting at the Konak.

The whole of that day and the next were occupied in going over, one by one, the demands of the Delegates, and the result of our discussions appears in the list of demands hereto annexed, as revised by the Commissioner after consultation with his coadjutors and myself.

It is to be regretted that this more expeditious method of arriving at an understanding was not adopted earlier. I found the Commissioner somewhat impracticable the first day of our meeting, and disposed to make mountains of molehills. I may instance, in support of my assertion, Article 8, in which the Delegates demand that in the discussions of the General Assembly and of the Tribunals the use of the Greek language should be obligatory. I pointed out to his Excellency that it had long been a subject of complaint with the Christians that the Mussulman members of the Courts of Law were in the habit of conversing among themselves and with Mussulman prisoners or witnesses in Turkish, their remarks not being understood by their Christian colleagues. They were thus suspected of suggesting to those on their trial or to witnesses what answers to make or what evidence to give. The scandal was great; yet his Excellency refused to see it, and declared that for reasons of State he could not allow the Turkish language to be suppressed in any public bodies. The following day his Highness Midhat Pasha dropped in at our meeting, as if by accident, when I seized the opportunity of submitting this and several other questions to his judgment. While disclaiming any right to offer an opinion, he did not hesitate to take my view of the matter, which induced the Commissioner to withdraw his opposition.

This morning I handed the Delegates, who had come to learn the result of our deliberations, their demands as finally modified by the Commission. They were prepared to learn that their first demand was rejected; but I felt myself authorized to assure them, confidentially, in consequence of your Excellency's telegram of the 30th ultimo,

that a Christian Governor-General would be appointed to Crete, for the first five years at least, an announcement which made them disposed to accept several proposals (particularly that of the nomination of the Judges by the Governor-General), which otherwise they would have rejected. I was led to expect that they would be dissatisfied with some of the limitations to which their demands were subjected, such as the exclusion of Customs duties from the budget of the island before being submitted to the consideration of the General Assembly, because the tithes alone will hardly suffice for the expenses of the local Administration, and hence no surplus will be available for public works—the privilege thus accorded them being more apparent than real. On the other hand, some of their pretensions are exaggerated, and dictated by a spirit of exclusiveness, and they could hardly expect them to be admitted. On the whole, I am more hopeful than formerly of a speedy arrangement of their differences with the Government being come to, and it is possible that the Commissioner may still be disposed to yield one or two points, while it cannot be denied that the Christians have already gained most valuable and substantial privileges.

The Delegates intend shortly, I understand, officially to request Her Majesty's Government to guarantee the privileges now granted. If they have not put forward their demand before, it is because they waited to see if the concessions to be made were worth guaranteeing. I have already had the honour to bring this subject to the notice of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 381.

Consul-General Stanley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 16.)

(No. 41. Political.)
My Lord, *Odessa, October 8, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report that embarkation of Russian troops at Bourgas for Russia has ceased, and that fresh troops are being sent there, four vessels laden with troops having sailed thither within the last week from Nicolaieff.

This may be merely to replace those who have been taken away, and the number may not exceed those allowed by the Treaty; but it is certain that some change from the arrangements till recently intended has taken place, as the departure of many regiments who were under orders to embark for Russia has been countermanded, and vessels under contract to carry a certain number of troops have carried fewer than the number contracted for, and have been indemnified for this partial breach of the contract.

According to the "Golos," 55,850 sick and wounded have been landed at the ports of Odessa, Nicolaieff, Sebastopol, and Theodosia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. E. STANLEY.

No. 382.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Sir J. Paunceforte.—(Received October 16.)

Sir, *Admiralty, October 15, 1878.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the annexed copy of a telegram from Captain Cator, of Her Majesty's ship "Defence," Senior Officer in Crete. No. , dated 15th October, 1878.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 382.

Captain Cator to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.) *"Defence," Suda Port, Crete, October 15, 1878, 4 P.M.*

CANDIA (Crete) Chiefs signed charter of liberties to-day; has been forwarded to Constantinople.

No. 383.

Mr. Law to Sir J. Paunceforte.—(Received October 16.)

Sir, *Treasury Chambers, October 15, 1878.*

I AM directed by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to state, for the information of the Marquis of Salisbury, that my Lords have received and considered your letter of the 10th instant, intimating that it is the intention of Her Majesty's Government to send Mr. Edward F. Harrison, Comptroller-General at Calcutta, to Constantinople for the purpose of inquiring into the financial condition of the Ottoman Empire, and proposing that Mr. Harrison should receive from public funds, during the period of his employment on this service, the difference between his furlough pay of 1,000*l.* a year and the full pay of his Indian appointment.

Assuming that the full pay of Mr. Harrison's office (which is stated in your letter at 12,000 rupees) is equivalent in sterling, at the present rate, to 3,675*l.*, the amount which will have to be provided from the funds of this country will be at the rate of 2,675*l.* per annum, and although this is a large amount, my Lords will be ready, having regard to the great importance of the inquiry, and on the understanding that it is not likely, as they infer from your letter, to occupy at the outside more than a year, to make provision for the necessary funds.

My Lords also assent to the proposal that Mr. Harrison's personal and travelling expenses should be paid, on the usual footing of a special mission.

They will cause a further communication to be addressed to you in regard to the suggestion that an officer of the Treasury should be attached to Mr. Harrison in this inquiry.

I am, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM LAW.

No. 384.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 16.)

(No. 919.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 15, 1878.*

ACCORDING to despatch from Acting Consul at Adrianople of the 13th instant, General Todleben has stated that the Russians will remain at Adrianople, and arrangements are being made with that object.

Measures are also being taken to fortify Russian position at Lule Bourgas, and Russians are reoccupying positions that they had already evacuated. According to despatch received by French Ambassador, number of troops at Adrianople and under General Scobeleff amounts to about 100,000 men. Mr. Calvert merely states that troops are continually arriving from the north.

No. 385.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 16.)

(No. 920.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 15, 1878.*

LIEUTENANT CHERMSIDE, just returned from visiting districts evacuated by Russians, reports that country is tranquil, that massacres and outrages on Christians have not occurred, and that measures taken by Turkish Government are generally effective, but that judging from condition of Turkish villages reprisals might take place on return

of Mahommedan refugees if proper police precautions are not observed. Bulgarians are leaving, induced to do so, it is believed, by Russians, but no Greeks.

Vice-Consuls at Gallipoli and Rodosto also report that their districts are undisturbed. Statements made by Russian Government are evidently unfounded or greatly exaggerated, and made to justify continued occupation of the country.

No. 386.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 16.)

(No. 171. Most Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October 16, 1878.*

THERE are indications that, since the rejection by Count Andrassy of Count Schouvaloff's late proposal at Vienna, Russia aims at a future alliance with Turkey against England and Austria.

Her object appears to be to bring about a rupture between Austria and the Porte, with a view to become the future protector of Turkey. Refusal of the Porte to conclude Convention with Austria, as also Turkish Circular, are suspected to have been instigated by Russia.

The aim of Russia in proposed separate Treaty with Turkey will be to fetter completely her future liberty of action, and to bring Turkey under Russian influence.

On the other hand, I learn that Prince Bismarck is striving to resuscitate three Emperors' alliance.

No. 387.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 16.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, October 16, 1878.*

SERVIAN troops still hold on two different points, Prepolak and Vranja, a considerable extent of Turkish territory.

As this is in direct violation of XLIst Article of Treaty of Berlin, and contrary to Prince Milan's assurances to me, and also in my presence to Her Majesty's Commissioner, I asked M. Ristics for explanation. He denies that any assurances were ever given, affirms what was said to me merely referred to withdrawal of Servian troops within the line of demarcation according to armistice concluded with Turkey, and not the Treaty frontier, and refuses to give any satisfaction. However, Her Majesty's Commissioner thinks that occupation by the Servian troops of ground beyond frontier may facilitate work of the Commission.

No. 388.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 16.)

(No. 33. Most Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 16, 1878.*

COULD you bring some pressure to bear on Count Andrassy to support me in Commission? Kalli is thoroughly well-disposed and anxious to do so, but Count Andrassy is wavering and undecided.

No. 389.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 16.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, October 16, 1878.*

REFERRING to your Lordship's telegram of the 14th instant, in order to contribute to the pacific solution of the Greek frontier question, I told Minister for Foreign Affairs to-day that Porte showed a disposition to make concessions. His Excellency expressed his gratification that the Porte thus seemed for the first time to acknowledge the obligation to carry out the recommendation of the Congress.

No. 390.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord A. Loftus.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 16, 1878, 4·20 P.M.*

ENGLISH officers who have been sent to examine report that country evacuated by Russians is quiet; and that the Turkish precautions to preserve order are now efficient. Express hope of Her Majesty's Government to Russian Government that evacuation may now proceed, as the cause of delay has been removed.

No. 391.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord A. Loftus.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 16, 1878, 4·50 P.M.*

POINT out to Russian Government that, under the XIXth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, financial administration of Eastern Roumelia is to be exercised by Commission, and express earnest hope of Her Majesty's Government that instructions will be given to Prince Dondoukoff to take no steps inconsistent with that stipulation. Her Majesty's Government have been informed that within the last few days he has been farming the tithes and moving large sums from Philippopolis to Sophia, measures which are evidently incompatible with functions assigned to the Commission by the Treaty.

No. 392.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 16, 1878, 5 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegrams Nos. 914 and 917, recent conduct of Porte towards Austria, taken in despite of the advice of Her Majesty's Government, has so irritated Government at Vienna that I doubt if at present moment it would be easy to induce them to listen to desire of Porte as to Bosnia or Montenegro.

But before Her Majesty's Government can take any steps on behalf of Porte they must have assurance that Porte will accept scheme of reform presented two months ago. Delay is producing here a growing belief that Porte is wholly insincere in the matter; and I have heard some of the strongest supporters of Turkey speak in despair as to possibility of upholding Turkish Empire.

No. 393.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 16, 1878, 5·10 P.M.*

THOUGH Lahanoff's contention has been disallowed at Livadia, it would be as well that Safvet made the same statement to Zichy that he made to you, as reported in your telegram No. 905.

No. 394.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 16, 1878.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 918, the language of Treaty makes it at least expedient, if not obligatory, that the Porte, before confirming by Firman the Cretan arrangement, should consult Commission. But Porte is not bound to take Commission's advice, still less to obtain its consent.

No. 395.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Colonel Home.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 16, 1878, 6·30 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram of 10th instant, I have not been able as yet to obtain military opinions, but as our future interest is not particularly engaged in promoting agreement between Bulgaria and Roumania, it is hardly worth our while to go to expense in surveying the frontier between them, if no one else will share it with us.

No. 396.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1271.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 16, 1878.

I HAVE to state to your Excellency that the interpretation placed by Her Majesty's Government on the fourth paragraph of Article XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin is that the language in which it is drawn up makes it expedient, if not obligatory, that the Porte should consult the European Commission for Eastern Roumelia upon the amended form, when settled, of the Organic Law for Crete of 1868, before that arrangement is confirmed by Firman. But the Treaty does not bind the Porte to take the advice of the Commission, and still less does it make it obligatory on the Porte to obtain its consent.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 397.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1267. Secret.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 16, 1878.

HER Majesty's Government have carefully considered your telegrams Nos. 914 and 917 of the 12th and 15th instant, reporting that both His Majesty the Sultan and the Grand Vizier have earnestly pressed for the mediation of Her Majesty's Government with that of Austria-Hungary with a view to facilitate a settlement of the Bosnian and Montenegrin question, and, in reply, I have to state to you that the recent course followed by the Porte towards Austria-Hungary in despite of the warnings of Her Majesty's Government has so irritated the Government at Vienna that I have great doubts as to whether, at the present moment, it would be easy to induce Count Andrassy to listen to the wishes of the Porte as regards the arrangements affecting those provinces.

But the Porte must be sensible that before any further responsibility for its policy can be assumed by Her Majesty's Government, the mode in which English representations have been dealt with must be considerably modified. Before Her Majesty's Government can take any steps in behalf of the Porte in this matter, it is necessary that they should receive a formal assurance that the Porte will accept the scheme of reform for Asiatic Turkey, which was presented for its consideration two months ago.

I have to impress upon you that the delay which has taken place in regard to these reforms is producing here a growing belief that the Porte is wholly insincere upon this most important subject. I have recently heard strong supporters of Turkey speak as if they despaired of the possibility of upholding the Turkish Empire.

The substance of the above has been communicated to your Excellency by telegraph.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 398.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1269.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 16, 1878.

I HAVE communicated to Sir Henry Elliot your Excellency's telegram of the 9th instant, in which, by desire of Safvet Pasha, you call my attention to a declaration made to him by Prince Lobanoff, to the effect that Adrianople would not be evacuated by the Russians until three months after the signature of the Treaty which has been proposed by Russia for the acceptance of the Porte.

Sir H. Elliot informs me that the language attributed to Prince Lobanoff has not reached Count Andrassy from Count Zichy.

It is desirable that Safvet Pasha should make the same communication to Count Zichy, with regard to Prince Lobanoff's contention, that he has made to your Excellency, and I should wish you to speak to him in this sense.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 399.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 547.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, October* 16, 1878.

IT appears from the Reports of the English officers who have been sent to examine into the truth of the report that massacres and outrages, of which Christians were the victims, were occurring in the districts evacuated by the Russian troops, that the country is quiet, and that the precautions taken by the Turkish authorities to preserve order are now efficient.

Under these circumstances, I have to request that your Excellency will state to the Russian Government that Her Majesty's Government hope that the evacuation by their troops of Turkish territory will now be proceeded with, inasmuch as all cause for delay appears to have been removed.

I have telegraphed to your Excellency the substance of this instruction.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 400.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 549.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, October* 16, 1878.

FROM information recently received by Her Majesty's Government, it seems that Prince Dondoukoff has within the last few days farmed the tithes of Eastern Roumelia, and has sent large sums of money from Philippopolis to Sofia.

It appears to Her Majesty's Government that these measures are evidently incompatible with the functions assigned by the Treaty of Berlin to the European Commission for the organization of Eastern Roumelia, inasmuch as under the XIXth Article of the Treaty the financial administration of the province is vested in that Commission.

I have to request that you will point this out to the Russian Government, and you will at the same time express the earnest hope of Her Majesty's Government that instructions will be given to Prince Dondoukoff to take no measures which in their effect are inconsistent with the above-mentioned stipulation.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 401.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Colonel Home.

(No. 25.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 16, 1878.*

BEFORE definitely instructing you upon the points raised in your telegram of the 10th instant, I have consulted the military authorities in this country. Not having as yet been furnished with their view, I have thought it desirable to inform you by telegraph that, as I do not consider that British interests in the future are particularly engaged in promoting an agreement between Bulgaria and Roumania, we should hardly be justified in ourselves alone bearing the expense of surveying the frontier between them if no other Power is willing to share it with us.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 402.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 49.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October 5, 1878.*

LAST night Lord Donoughmore and myself were invited by Abro Effendi, whose house is at Therapia, to meet our French and Italian colleagues. We went at about 9, and left at 12.

The conversation turned almost exclusively on the speech of Colonel Schepeleff, a copy of which is inclosed; and M. Contouly, the French Assistant Commissioner, in the absence of Baron de Ring, who was unwell, urged on me to accept an amendment on the Russian amendment, which by a side wind should arrive at the practical result of establishing the Ottoman Bank as the only financial institution to be consulted.

I answered that I could not for one moment admit the expediency of basing the discussion on the practical issue. The Russians knew quite as well as any one of us that practically the Ottoman Bank was the only institution capable of carrying on the work. Prince Tzeretelew, who had been here many years, was fully cognizant of this circumstance. The only object of the words proposed by Colonel Schepeleff was to put other institutions on the same footing as the only institution which had an Imperial charter, and thus to put aside the rights acquired under the political authority of the Sultan, in a province which, by the words of the Treaty, "rests on places" under that authority. In the course of the discussion the day before, Prince Tzeretelew had declared that the concession given by the Sultan did not regard us—"Qu'est-ce que ça nous fait, la concession du Sultan?" These were words he had pronounced more than once.

If, in addition to the question of right, it was necessary to add a practical argument to enforce my views, I considered that the admission, or indirect evasion, of the issue raised by the Russian Commissioners would expose us to great practical difficulties. We should have either directly or tacitly admitted the setting aside of the Sultan's rights in one instance, which would involve us in further concessions, or, at all events, set up a precedent against us.

M. Vernoni observed that there were some Russian establishments in Galata which would come within the scope of the words proposed by the Russian Commissioner.

I considered that this would be one of the practical inconveniences of the resolution.

But, in answer to M. Contouly, who with his colleague, M. de Ring, is always desirous for a conciliatory policy, I stated that I would follow him in the same path on all occasions where the prescriptions of the Treaty of Berlin were not directly at stake.

M. Contouly was afraid that great difficulties would arise from the constant mutual distrust of the English and Russian Commissioners. I told him that I hoped that this would not prove the case in the long run. On the two occasions where I had been told by M. de Ring that the Russians were going to make certain proposals, I had accepted them; but, when the proposals came to be made, they were not those of which I had been informed.

We were come here, not to ask Russia to carry out the stipulations of Berlin, but, with her and the other Powers, parties to the Treaty, amicably to concert the best

means of carrying them out. I must, therefore, be forgiven if I treated the question in a more John Bull manner than he might quite approve, and I did so with the greater firmness as I saw in this an attempt to get in the thin end of the wedge, an operation in which Russia had always proved an adept. I hoped that, if this attempt were successfully resisted, we should then be able to go on amicably with our work, so as really to bring it to a conclusion.

M. Contouly said that this was equally the interest of all, and that he still thought I might accept some formula to be proposed by some member of the Commission, especially as, in principle, the majority of the Commission agreed with me.

I replied that, as far as a formula was concerned, I would gladly accept any which established my principle. I fully recognized the interest taken by all Powers in the maintenance of peace, but I added that England had taken a more active and anxious part than any other Power, a proof of which still existed in the presence of our fleet within the Straits. The Russians had talked very loudly against the Treaty. Prince Dondoukoff had informed the Manager of the Ottoman Bank at Philippopolis that he did not recognize him, and that his bank must prepare itself to be the succursale of a future Bank of Bulgaria. I was not inclined to give too much weight to the reports of conversations, but Colonel Schepeleff's amendment confirmed them on this occasion by clearly aiming in the same direction.

I will not in this despatch submit to your Lordship the views I expressed on the general tenour of Colonel Schepeleff's remarks, as I am preparing a declaration to be read on Monday at the next sitting of the Commission, copy of which I shall forward by this mail.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 402.

Speech of Colonel Schepeleff.

Messieurs,

L'ORDRE du jour vient appeler votre attention sur une motion proposée à la fin de la dernière séance par M. le Commissaire de France, et qui a trait à l'Article XIX du Traité de Berlin, en vertu duquel votre Commission est investie du droit d'administrer les finances de la Roumélie Orientale jusqu'à l'achèvement de l'organisation de cette province.

Notre honorable collègue de France a fait précéder sa motion d'un discours contenant l'exposé des motifs qui l'ont porté à formuler la proposition sus-mentionnée.

Sans vouloir provoquer des débats sur la teneur de ce discours, je tiens à relever dès à présent certains passages qu'il renferme, et dont un surtout me semble donner une interprétation peu conforme à l'esprit du mandat qui nous est assigné par le Traité de Berlin. En constituant que la Commission est chargée d'élaborer un projet de lois organiques pour la province nouvellement créée, M. le Délégué Français a cru devoir ajouter que la Commission est en même temps appelée à contrôler l'Administration qui fonctionnera en Roumélie Orientale jusqu'au jour où l'organisation prévue par le Traité de Berlin entrera en vigueur. C'est précisément la seconde partie de cette période qui me paraît être de nature à soulever des malentendus, que moi et mon collègue jugeons la nécessité absolue d'écarter dès le début de nos travaux.

Les Articles du Traité de Berlin qui se rapportent à la constitution et aux attributions de la Commission Européenne pour la Roumélie Orientale, déterminent d'une façon explicite la tâche de notre assemblée en ne chargeant cette dernière que de l'élaboration d'un statut organique pour cette province, conformément aux principes indiqués par les Puissances Signataires du Traité, ainsi que de la gestion provisoire des finances Rouméliotes. Pour notre part, nous n'y trouvons aucune indication, directe ou indirecte, qui fasse allusion au droit du contrôle de la Commission sur l'administration existant actuellement dans la Roumélie Orientale. Le mandat dont se trouve investie la Commission aux termes du Traité a, d'après notre point de vue, un caractère essentiellement législatif ou organisateur, sauf le droit indéniable qui est déféré à la Commission par l'Article XIX, pour la gestion de la province, jusqu'à l'achèvement du nouveau projet d'organisation.

Ceci étant posé comme hors de doute controverse, je ne pense pas qu'il soit de la compétence de la Commission d'élargir de son propre chef les limites du mandat qui lui est assigné par le Traité; et je considère de mon devoir de déclarer de prime abord, en mon nom et en celui de mon collègue, que nous ne pouvons nous associer à l'inter-

prétation formulée dans le discours de M. le Commissaire de France, et reconnaître à la Commission, dont nous avons l'honneur de faire partie, aucun droit d'ingérence dans les affaires courantes de l'administration actuellement établie en Roumélie Orientale.

Un autre passage du discours de M. le Commissaire de France, quoique n'ayant pas la portée du précédent, demande néanmoins une petite rectification. En faisant un examen des combinaisons pour l'organisation immédiate d'un service financier en Roumélie sous l'autorité de la Commission, M. le Baron de Ring indique la nécessité de créer un personnel financier où l'élément indigène trouverait la place qui lui est légitimement due. Ce point de vue pourrait peut-être faire supposer à l'honorable assemblée que l'élément national n'est guère représenté parmi le personnel du régime fonctionnant dans la Roumélie. Or, je tiens à constater que, non-seulement la plupart des postes administratifs dans cette province, et toutes les fonctions judiciaires sont entre les mains des indigènes, mais que la répartition et la perception des impôts et contributions ainsi que l'encaissement du montant des revenus et les paiements dûment ordonnancés s'opèrent par des agents du pays, sous le contrôle des Conseils Administratifs des districts, librement élus par la population.

Passant à la motion qui vient de vous être présentée par M. le Commissaire Français, et qui a pour but de déléguer un de nos collègues auprès de la Banque Ottomane, à l'effet d'étudier les conditions auxquelles cet établissement se chargerait éventuellement d'administrer, sous la surveillance de la Commission, les finances de la Roumélie Orientale, je ferai observer que, pour ma part, je suis prêt à adhérer à cette proposition quoiqu'il me paraisse douteux d'en espérer un résultat pratique pour le but qu'on s'est fixé; car je ne puis m'expliquer comment une institution comme la Banque mentionnée pourrait percevoir les contributions directes ou indirectes, ou, pour mieux dire, mener une opération qui se pratique partout ailleurs à l'aide d'agents spéciaux faisant nécessairement partie du personnel administratif du pays. Je n'entre pas pour le moment dans de plus amples détails sur ce sujet, et me réserve de me prononcer plus tard, s'il y a lieu, sur l'application pratique du mode de la gestion financière qui pourrait être proposée par la Banque Ottomane. Mais je suis de l'avis, que, du moment que la motion de notre honorable collègue Français n'a d'autre but que de nous prouver des éléments d'information, d'un côté, on ne devrait pas se borner à les chercher exclusivement à la Banque Ottomane; et que de l'autre, il serait non moins utile et pratique d'étudier préalablement les conditions du régime financier actuellement en vigueur dans la Roumélie Orientale.

Je proposerais, en conséquence:—

1. D'ajouter à la motion de M. le Commissaire de France l'expression, "Il sera d'ailleurs loisible au Délégué de la Commission de se mettre également en rapport avec d'autres établissements financiers ayant leur siége en Turquie."

2. De voter l'amendement suivant:—La Commission Européenne délègue un de ses membres pour se mettre en rapport avec les autorités, qui administrent les finances de la Roumélie Orientale, afin d'étudier les conditions du régime financier actuel de la province, et la possibilité de le concilier avec l'administration provisoire des finances dont est chargée la Commission par l'Article XIX du Traité.

Il reste entendu qu'un arrangement éventuel de cette nature ne préjugerait pas les décisions à prendre par la Commission Européenne pour l'organisation définitive du régime financier de la nouvelle province.

No. 403.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 17.)

(No. 59.) [B.B.]

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 5, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 49 of this day's date, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a declaration I propose to make at the meeting of the Commission on Monday, on the subject of the remarks made by Baron de Ring and Colonel Schepeleff. I think it most important that the Turkish Governor-General should be appointed with as little delay as possible, so that Russia should not continue to create institutions in Eastern Roumelia which would force on the Commission a work of destruction before being able to construct.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 403.

Draft of Declaration.

JE crois devoir faire quelques observations sur les paroles prononcées par notre honorable collègue le Premier Commissaire de la Russie.

Je me rallie jusqu'à un certain point aux observations qu'il a faites en réponse à celles de M. le Commissaire de France. Dans le Traité de Berlin il n'y a pas, comme dit M. le Colonel Schepeleff, une indication directe qui fasse allusion au droit de contrôle de la Commission, sur l'administration existant actuellement dans la Roumélie Orientale.

Mais en lisant les Articles du Traité, selon l'interprétation que lui donnent les Protocoles, on ne saurait nier à la Commission un certain droit d'ingérence.

L'administration des finances leur est confiée "d'accord avec la Porte Ottomane." Or, le mot "administration" n'implique pas seulement la perception des contributions, mais aussi le réglement des traitements, ainsi que les frais généraux de la province.

L'administrateur des finances a pleinement le droit d'examiner si les débours que l'administration demande sont fondés, sur les vraies nécessités du pays, selon les principes de l'économie politique.

Or, les Protocoles ne laissent à ce sujet aucun doute.

Dans le Protocole No. 6, séance du 25 Juin, 1878, le Comte Schouvaloff s'exprime dans les termes suivants:—

"Dans la Roumélie Orientale la Russie n'a pas œuvre isolée à faire; l'Europe s'est substituée à elle et peut y agir comme il lui semble opportun."

Et comment l'Europe s'est-elle substituée à la Russie, sinon par le moyen de la Commission qu'elle vient de nommer?

Mais les paroles de M. le Colonel Schepeleff ouvrent des considérations d'une portée beaucoup plus large. Il fait mention de ce l'administration actuellement établie en Roumélie Orientale."

Je dois exprimer mon avis que cette administration n'est pas une administration prévue par le Traité de Berlin, ni basée sur les stipulations de cet acte Européen.

Examinons les Articles du Traité. L'Article XIII dit: "Il est formé au sud des Balkans, &c." Je dois appeler l'attention de la Commission sur la circonstance que cet Article est rédigé au temps présent, et que la province, au moins depuis l'échange des ratifications, est une province de l'Empire Ottoman, restant placée sous l'autorité politique et militaire directe du Sultan dans les conditions d'autonomie administrative:—

"Elle aura un Gouverneur-Général Chrétien." Ce Gouverneur-Général ne dépend pas pour ses pouvoirs de nos décisions. C'est la limitation de ces pouvoirs qui dépend de nous. Mais il a une existence indépendante selon le Traité, et si nous ne tombons pas d'accord sur la définition de ses pouvoirs, il aura ceux qui appartiennent à un Gouverneur-Général quelqu'ils soient.

Pour mieux développer ma pensée j'ose attirer l'attention de la Commission sur l'Article XV:—

"L'ordre intérieur est maintenu dans la Roumélie Orientale par une gendarmerie indigène assistée d'une milice locale." "Pour la composition de ces deux corps, dont les officiers sont nommés par le Sultan," &c.

Vous voyez là une fois encore le temps présent. Mais passons à l'Article XVIII:—

"Immédiatement après l'échange des ratifications du présent Traité une Commission Européenne sera formée, pour élaborer, d'accord avec la Porte Ottomane," &c.

Ainsi, dans l'ordre chronologique des Articles nous trouvons que d'abord la province est établie, et que la gendarmerie et la milice, dont le Gouverneur-Général est la tête, sont nommés au temps présent, mais que subséquemment les travaux à exécuter par la Commission sont désignés par le temps futur. Mais l'Article XVIII ne laisse à ce sujet aucun doute: "La Commission Européenne sera chargée d'administrer, d'accord avec la Sublime Porte, les finances de la province, jusqu'à l'achèvement de la nouvelle organisation." Ce droit est pleinement reconnu par MM. les Commissaires de la Russie.

La Sublime Porte doit donc selon le Traité se trouver dans la Roumélie jusqu'à l'achèvement de la nouvelle organisation. Mais si la Sublime Porte se trouve dans une province de l'Empire elle ne peut s'y trouver que comme Souverain. Comme mon Gouvernement est pleinement résolu à insister sur l'exécution exacte du Traité de

Berlin, et à compléter ainsi l'œuvre de la conciliation et de la paix, et que j'ai lieu de croire que la Grande Bretagne n'est pas isolée, je suis d'avis que la Sublime Porte devrait obtempérer aux stipulations de ce Traité en nommant immédiatement son Gouverneur-Général, ainsi que les officiers de la milice et de la gendarmerie, afin que ces deux corps soient formés pendant les séances de la Commission et que la Commission puisse prendre connaissance des sommes qui doivent être affectées à leur entretien.

Il est vrai que la mission confiée à la Commission est de former un état de choses permanent, dans lequel l'autorité du Sultan doit être consolidé, tout en donnant aux populations des garanties de bon gouvernement, basées sur le système de la représentation populaire.

Mais, pour arriver à ce but, la Commission a non-seulement le droit, mais aussi le devoir, de s'assurer que le système qui existe, et le fonctionnement de l'administration actuelle, ne sont pas nuisibles à l'objet de leur mission. Le chiffre de l'armée d'occupation est fixé par le Traité. La Commission doit examiner si les cadres de cette armée excèdent les proportions auxquelles les finances de la province doivent subvenir.

En admettant que le Traité ne dise pas d'une façon directe que la Commission peut prendre connaissance de l'administration actuelle et la surveiller, ce droit découle de la nature même de leur mandat. En même temps il est evident que le Traité ne donne aucun droit d'administration aux autorités de la Russie. L'Article XXII reconnait à cette Puissance le droit d'occupation; mais, selon les précédents des occupations militaires, l'occupation n'implique pas l'administration civile. Quand même cela serait autrement le Traité de Berlin à tranché la question en comprenant dans le même Article le droit d'occupation de la Roumélie Orientale et celui de la Roumanie, où on ne pourra jamais prétendre que l'autorité du pays serait mise de côté.

No. 404.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 17.)

(No. 51.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October* 5, 1878.

THE repatriation of refugees is a question which naturally occupies the mind of the Turkish Government. M. Fernandez, the head of the Jewish community at Constantinople, has been to see me more than once on the subject of the Jewish refugees, now wholly dependent on subscriptions administered by him, but which are becoming exhausted.

Your Lordship will have seen, from Lord Donoughmore's despatches, that the fate reserved for returned refugees is very dismal, and it cannot be wondered at that, with the approach of winter, the question presents itself with increased urgency to the consideration of the Porte.

Abro Effendi mentioned the subject at the meeting to which I have alluded in my despatch No. 49 of this date, and he has communicated to me a declaration he intends to present to the Commission on Monday.

This declaration, of which a copy is inclosed, I propose to support.

The contents of it persuade me, if possible, more fully than before, of the necessity of the appointment of the Ottoman Governor-General.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 404.

Declaration of Abro Effendi respecting Refugees.

UN grand nombre d'habitants de la Roumélie Orientale ont été dispersés à la suite des derniers événements, et souffrent cruellement de cet exil, qui les prive de la jouissance de leurs biens, et les réduits à un état de détresse malheureusement trop notoire pour avoir besoin d'être décrit. Si ces malheureux ne sont pas rapatriés avant la mauvaise saison, ils n'auront échappé aux désastres qui ont affligé leur pays, que pour succomber à la misère, à la maladie, et à la faim.

La Commission de la Roumélie Orientale étant appelée à assurer à cette province, par une organisation administrative nouvelle, la paix, et la prospérité intérieure, ne saurait rester indifférente au sort de ceux de ses habitants qui sont les plus dignes d'intérêt.

En conséquence, les Commissaires Ottomans ont l'honneur de proposer que la Commission inaugure ses travaux par un acte d'humanité en prenant toutes les mesures propres à hâter le rapatriement des réfugiés de la Roumélie Orientale, sans distinction de race ou de religion, et à leur assurer à leur rentrée dans leurs foyers la securité de leur personne et de leurs biens.

No. 405.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 17.)

(No. 52. Most Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October* 6, 1878.

ASSIM PASHA called on me yesterday to thank me for the part I had taken in the discussion on Thursday respecting the Ottoman Bank.

He said that the object of the Russians in making the proposal was not only to set aside the right of the Bank as emanating from the Sultan, but to introduce into the administration of the finances of Eastern Roumelia a merchant at Galata named Camarra, a Russianized Greek, known to be very much mixed up with all Russian intrigues.

The gossip of Pera makes very free with the name of this gentleman, who, it is declared, used to speculate on a joint account with General Ignatieff, and who is hinted at as destined to be, with his political patron, the sole recipient of the indemnity to be paid by Turkey for losses incurred by Russian subjects during the war.

Assim Pasha agrees with me perfectly as to the necessity for the immediate appointment of an Ottoman Governor-General for the province, and he tells me that Rustom Pasha has been selected for that post. He also informed me that the Porte is engaged in drawing up a scheme for the reorganization of the province, which he will communicate to me before bringing it before the Commission. I have given him a draft of some proposals of mine, and if I can conciliate them with those of the Porte, I shall not bring them forward, but content myself with supporting the Turkish scheme.

His Excellency expressed himself desirous of giving very great liberties to the people, so as to remove from them every grievance that might encourage them to seek for greater liberty by annexation to Servia or Bulgaria.

With respect to the ecclesiastical question, Assim Pasha was of opinion that the Church of Eastern Roumelia should be rendered as independent as was compatible with canonical law, and that it should remain in communion with the Patriarchate.

He was very anxious on the subject of the repatriation of refugees, a subject which I have informed your Lordship Abro Effendi is about to bring before the Commission immediately.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 406.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 17.)

(No. 53.) [B.B.]
My Lord, *Therapia, October* 8, 1878.

YOUR Lordship will have learnt from my telegrams of yesterday the grave incident which occurred at the third sitting of the Commission. I will now endeavour to report it to your Lordship in full detail.

Your Lordship will recollect that at the first meeting of the Commission, as reported in my despatch No. 44 of the 1st instant, Baron de Ring, the French Commissioner, in a written speech, gave notice of a motion to facilitate the task of the Commission in administering the finances of Roumelia, as laid down by Article XIX of the Treaty of Berlin.

In that speech M. de Ring made use of the following expressions:—

"D'après le Traité de Berlin, la Commission de la Roumélie Orientale est investie d'un mandat complexe; elle est chargée, d'une part, d'élaborer des lois organiques réglant l'administration ainsi que le régime judiciaire, financier, militaire, de la nouvelle province; d'autre part elle est appelée à contrôler l'administration qui fonctionnera en Roumélie Orientale, jusqu'au jour où l'organisation prévue par le Traité de Berlin entrera en vigueur; car si on lui déniait cette attribution, il dépendrait de l'administration provisoire, quelle qu'elle fût, de rendre d'avance notre œuvre illusoire. Enfin la Commission doit elle-même faire acte d'administration en prenant en main la gestion des finances Rouméliotes."

Baron de Ring, who had not shown me the text of his words, had told me previously that the Russian Commissioners intended to accept his proposal of delegating one of our body (it being intended to select the Italian Commissioner) to confer with the Ottoman Bank as to the organization of a financial system during the administration of the Commission.

At the second meeting of the Commission last Thursday, Colonel Schepeleff, the First Commissioner of Russia, produced a paper, a copy of which I have transmitted to your Lordship in my despatch No. 49 of the 5th instant.

In this document Colonel Schepeleff raised the following points:—

He considered it absolutely necessary to remove from our labours at the outset the idea that the Commission had any control over the Administration actually in force.

He declared our powers limited to the administration of the finances, did not consider it competent for us to enlarge the limit of our mandate, and could not recognize "any right of interference in the current affairs of the Administration established in Eastern Roumelia.

He also entered into a defence of the existing financial system of Roumelia, and criticized the proposal of the French Commissioner, relative to the Ottoman Bank.

He then made two proposals of his own:—

1. To authorize our Delegate to the Ottoman Bank to "se mettre également en rapport avec d'autres établissement financiers ayant leur siège en Turquie."

2. To delegate one of our members to examine the financial system now in vigour under a Russian initiative, and the possibility of uniting it with that of the Commission.

The discussion was on that occasion limited to the question of the Bank. This has since been solved by a proposal made at the third meeting by the Commissioner of Italy, which the Turkish Commissioner and myself accepted, subject to some reserves; and the Italian Commissioner, associated with Abro Effendi, was delegated to carry it out.

The proposal of M. Vernoni will be sent to your Lordship in another despatch.

The second proposal of Colonel Schepeleff was not, however, acceptable to the majority of the Commission, as it was considered impossible for a single Commissioner, not being an expert in finance, to undertake the charge; and after the language of Colonel Schepeleff, and his motions, it was not thought safe to accept the Russian proposals till after we had all arrived at Philippopolis.

I made, in the course of the discussion, the declaration, a copy of which I have inclosed in my despatch No. 50 of the 5th instant, as, bearing in mind the language of Prince Dondoukoff, I considered it essential and inevitable that the ground should be cleared in some way before we went to Philippopolis, where our presence in certain cases might do more harm than good.

I modified this somewhat extensive declaration of Baron de Ring as to the absolute right of the Commission to control the existing Administration. I do not think the Treaty of Berlin lays this down explicitly, and however well founded the claim may be logically and morally, it is impossible, either by logic or morality alone, at once to put aside a *de facto* Government backed by an overwhelming military force. We could not expect the Russian authorities and functionaries so obey us, nor could we entirely supersede them before having formed a system to take their place.

But while it is impossible to ignore the existing state of things, I felt it necessary to establish both our rights, at all events of comment, and my view that the Treaty of Berlin does not recognize the Government of Eastern Roumelia by a Russian administration. The language, not only of Prince Dondoukoff and General Skobeleff, but that of the Russian Commissioners of Delimitation to their French and English colleagues, has tended to establish the rights of Russia almost as owner of the soil; and it appears

to me impossible for us to manage the finances unless we exercise some control over the number and salaries of the employés.

This is the more necessary as the formation by Russia of a Bulgarian militia, and of a gendarmerie, is clearly not in any way authorized by the arrangements of Berlin.

The question will also have to be decided as to the proportions of payment of the army of occupation. The Treaty lays down that 50,000 troops are to be kept in Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia, at the expense of the country occupied. Bulgaria contains about six and a-half sandjaks, while Roumelia comprises only two and a-half. If Russia decides on maintaining a larger army than the Treaty prescribes, how is it to be maintained?

Above all I think it necessary that the actual sovereignty of the Sultan over Eastern Roumelia should be placed beyond dispute, and that his officers should be present with us to form the elements and establish the machinery of order projected at Berlin. Otherwise it will be impossible to settle the questions of repatriation, or the severities now practised by the Russo-Bulgarian police on the Mussulman population. With this object the Ottoman Commissioner had privately assured me, previous to the meeting, that he would announce the early nomination of the Governor-General and the officers of the future militia and gendarmerie.

These were the motives that prompted my declaration.

My views were, I believed, shared by the French, Austrian, and Ottoman Commissioners, and not, as I believed, disapproved by our Italian colleague.

As soon as I had read my remarks, Colonel Schepeleff stated that he regretted our departure from what was practical, and that he and his colleague could not recognize the competency of the Commission to discuss the Administration existing in Eastern Roumelia, which rested entirely on arrangements between Russia and the Porte alone, and the stipulations of an anterior Treaty.

I said I could not recognize the stipulations of an anterior Treaty as overriding those of Berlin.

The Ottoman Commissioners declared that they could not admit the provisions of Article XXVI of the Treaty of San Stefano as valid in Eastern Roumelia.

Colonel Schepeloff said he had not cited either Treaty or Article, but he admitted tacitly this was the only solution of his words.

The French and Austrian Commissioners reserved the point for their Governments, as well as myself.

The German Commissioner reserved the point.

The Italian Commissioner said nothing, but, I believe, has since made to his Government a report of the incident.

I asked the Ottoman Commissioners if it was the intention of the Porte shortly to name their Governor-General and the officers of militia.

They replied in the affirmative.

Prince Tzeretelew said that Russia would oppose the appointment of a Governor-General, which could only take place with the assent of the Powers.

The consideration of Colonel Schepeleff's second proposal was reserved to a future occasion.

The next meeting of the Commission was adjourned, first till Thursday, then till Saturday, to receive the Report of the Commissioners delegated to confer with the Bank.

The following is the "ordre du jour" for Saturday:—

1. Motion Tzeretelew sur l'Article XXIII du Traité.
2. Question du départ pour Philippopoli.
3. Présentation du Rapport (s'il est prêt) de M. Vernoni et d'Abro Effendi.

At the end of the proceedings Prince Tzeretelew gave notice of a question to be addressed at the next meeting to the Ottoman Commissioner on the subject of the "Réglements" for other provinces, mentioned in Article XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin.

Abro Effendi also handed in an answer to the observations made by Prince Tzeretelew at the first meeting, respecting the position and powers of the Turkish Commissioners.

These papers I will, for convenience sake, inclose in another covering despatch.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 407.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 54.) [B.B.]

Therapia, October 9, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of different papers handed in to the Secretaries of the Commission at the last meeting.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 407.

Signor Vernoni's Motion recognizing necessity of working with Ottoman Bank, but recommending that other Establishments should also be consulted.

DANS les discussions qui ont surgi pendant la dernière réunion, à la suite de l'amendement présenté par notre honorable collègue le Colonel Schepeleff, à la proposition de M. le Baron de Ring, relative au choix de l'établissement auquel on devrait s'adresser pour coopérer à la question financière provisoire de la Roumélie Orientale, grand nombre de considérations ont été émises et nous ont écartés de l'objectif final que la Commission s'était proposé.

Ce n'est pas de mon intention de les relever, ni de les discuter de nouveau; je me bornerai uniquement à soumettre à l'examen de la Commission les suivantes considérations, qui découlent du point de vue pratique de la question.

Tout d'abord, Messieurs, il est nécessaire de reconnaître que l'adoption des mesures à prendre pour l'administration provisoire des finances de la Roumélie Orientale, qui reste placée sous l'autorité politique et militaire de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, doit se faire d'accord avec la Sublime Porte, soit avec Messieurs les Commissaires Ottomans, qui sont munis de ses pouvoirs.

M. le Baron de Ring, dans le Mémoire qu'il a presenté dans notre première réunion, a émis l'idée de nous adresser à la Banque Impériale Ottomane, afin de connaître a quelles conditions elle voudrait prêter son concours pour coopérer avec nous dans l'administration provisoire des finances de la Roumélie Orientale; cette proposition, qui était portée à la discussion de la séance précédente, a reçu un amendement de M. le premier Commissaire de Russie, qui, tout en opinant de ne pas admettre de nous adresser d'une manière exclusive au dit établissement financier, propose de laisser libre le délégué de la Commission de se mettre en rapport avec d'autres établissements financiers ayant leur siége en Turquie.

Abstraction faite de considérations émises par notre honorable collègue d'Angleterre, l'amendement de M. le Colonel Schopeleff serait acceptable s'il se trouvait à Constantinople d'autres banques, qui pourraient nous offrir les mêmes avantages, et les mêmes facilités d'opérations qui nous sont indispensables pour la tâche qui nous incombe, mais, comme il n'en existe pas, la Commission doit nécessairement avoir recours à la Banque Impériale Ottomane, laquelle, d'ailleurs, en dehors des garanties voulues, de sa position financière, et de son crédit parfaitement assis dans le monde financier, a pour nous le côté pratique nécessaire pour le concours que nous lui réclamons. Et sans m'arrêter à la considération des engagements qui lient le Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman à cet établissement (engagements que nous devrions forcément peser, aussi, puisqu'il nous faut l'accord de la Sublime Porte, pour toute mesure que nous serions à même de prendre en vue de l'administration provisoire des dites finances) il serait impossible de ne pas reconnaître que la Banque Impériale Ottomane est en état, mieux que tout autre établissement de ce genre, de nous prêter d'utiles services dans le but que nous avons en vue.

Une fois admis que la position de crédit dont jouit le dit établissement ne peut soulever aucune objection de notre part, je considère très-avantageux pour nous d'avoir recours audit établissement financier, qu'étant parfaitement au courant du rouage financier du pays, disposant déjà d'un personnel apte à ce genre d'opérations, tout en possédant les qualités pratiques indispensables pour le maniement d'une trésorerie publique.

En conséquence, je me permets de vous proposer d'ajouter à la proposition de M. le Baron de Ring la clause suivante:—"Le Commissaire délégué pourra recourir, s'il le juge nécessaire, aux lumières des directeurs d'autres établissements financiers établis dans la capitale, pour s'éclairer sur les mesures que la Commission devra prendre."

J'engage, mes honorables collègues, de vouloir considérer que la question qui nous occupe est d'une urgence absolue; elle devrait être votée au plus tôt pour qu'il nous reste le temps matériellement nécessaire de nous occuper de détails des combinaisons qui seraient à adopter.

Inclosure 2 in No. 407.

Réservation of Sultan's rights, and of those of Institutions and Individuals privileged by him.

EN acceptant la proposition de M. le Commissaire d'Italie, la Commission aurait, me paraît-il, implicitement réservé les droits du Sultan dans la Roumélie Orientale, comme province de l'Empire, ainsi que les droits des individus, des banques, et des autres institutions, auxquels le Sultan a accordé des priviléges, lesquels restent placés dans cette province sous son autorité politique.

Inclosure 3 in No. 407.

Motion by Prince Tzeretelew.

LA Commission ayant à se prononcer sur les différents réglements visés par l'Article XXIII du Traité de Berlin, juge utile de vouloir d'avance les matériaux nécessaires pour pouvoir donner son avis. Elle prie les Commissaires Ottomans de vouloir bien lui communiquer les informations propres à la renseigner sur cette partie de sa tâche.

Inclosure 4 in No. 407.

Declaration by Abro Effendi.

D'APRÈS l'Article XVIII du Traité de Berlin, l'organisation administrative de la Roumélie Orientale doit être élaborée d'accord avec la Sublime Porte.

Comme le Gouvernement Impérial est représenté au sein de la Commission par ses Délégués, l'accord s'établira dans la Commission elle-même.

En conséquence l'accord sera considéré comme établi avec la Sublime Porte sur toutes les dispositions qui auront été adoptées par la Commission avec l'assentiment des Délégués Ottomans.

No. 408.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 55.)

Therapia, October 9, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to the question raised by the Russian Commissioners as to the continued validity of the Treaty of San Stefano in Eastern Roumelia, I beg leave briefly to call your Lordship's attention to the following considerations:—

1. The Treaty of San Stefano was designated a preliminary Treaty.

2. At the signature of the Treaty the Province of Eastern Roumelia did not exist.

3. The question seems to have been decided in the Protocols of Berlin. See Blue Book, "Turkey," No. 39, 1878, page 58: the remarks of Prince Bismarck.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 409.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 56. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October 9, 1878.*

YESTERDAY the English gentleman, to whom I have already alluded as being on friendly terms with the Russian authorities, repeated to me a conversation he had held with Prince Tzeretelew on the subject of the discussion of Monday.

Prince Tzeretelew acknowledged that he had been indiscreet. He said the English wanted to get as much as possible out of Russia, knowing that Russia did not wish to go to war; but that Russia equally knows England does not want a war.

He explained Colonel Schepeloff's words by saying that they did not imply that Eastern Roumelia was governed under the Treaty of San Stefano, but that the institutions now existing there were of a date anterior to the Treaty of Berlin, and were derived from a former understanding between Russia and Turkey.

He was not quite correct in his report to my informant of what I had said.

My informant believes that the Russian Commissioners have telegraphed for instructions, and will be glad to effect some compromise.

Prince Tzeretelew is remarkably active, and seems to take a pride in raising questions. The other evening, at a private meeting at the French Embassy of the Commissioners to revise the Protocols, we were discussing the place of meeting at the Grand Vizier's, when he said: "N'est-ce pas absurde d'aller en Asie pour réorganiser une province Européenne? Je regrette de ne pas y avoir pensé plus tôt. Voilà une autre difficulté que j'aurais soulevée."

He is now raising the difficulty of the "Réglements" referred to in Article XXIII.

Colonel Schepeloff is much quieter and more reasonable, and seems amused at the eagerness of his colleague, which he appears either unwilling or unable to check, while he does not encourage it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 410.

Sir H. Drummond-Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 57. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October 9, 1878.*

I OMITTED to mention to your Lordship, in my despatch No. 56, that one fear expressed by Prince Tzeretelew to my informant was that, if my views were carried out, Eastern Roumelia, if no organization were agreed upon, would dwindle again into the condition of a vilayet.

To avoid this view I had suggested to Abro Effendi that, in announcing the forthcoming appointment of a Governor-General the Grand Vizier should authorize him to announce that the Governor-General should, at all events, accept the advice, in matters of administration, of the Commission, until the new system is established. This proposal is still under consideration. Unless some understanding of this kind is arrived at, both by Russians and Turks, I fear we shall fall into a vicious circle.

If the Turks assume the Government of the province, and, for some reason or other, the new organization is delayed, the Russians may allege, with some plausibility, that they cannot withdraw their occupation in the absence of a good form of government. If, on the other hand, the Russians delay the settlement, their administration will remain unchecked.

A common understanding that the Commission should, pending the introduction of the new institutions, act either as an administrative, or, at all events, as a consultative body, might perhaps offer a compromise acceptable to both parties.

The interpretation given by M. de Braunschweig to Articles XVIII, XIX, and XXIII, of the Treaty, as stated in my despatch No. 28 of the 14th ultimo, might serve as the basis for such an arrangement.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 411.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 58.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October 11, 1878.*

THE notice given by Prince Tzeretelew on the subject of Article XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin covers much more than is apparent. Russia will later, I believe, endeavour to establish that the Commission ceases actually to exist at the end of the three months allotted for the elaboration of a project. It will no doubt be argued that, as the Commission thus falls of itself at the end of three months, its competency to revise the regulations mentioned in Article XXIII will cease at the same time. Hence the reason for bringing on the question at once. The object proposed by Russia is to prevent a settlement by the Commission of the questions submitted to it. Russia fears the progress of representative and constitutional forms of government, and will endeavour in every way to oppose their introduction into Eastern Roumelia. She hopes to keep possession of the province, as well as of its administration, during the labours of the Commission, and when these come to an abrupt end, as she anticipates, she will give up the province to Turkey in a state of anarchy, with the Bulgarians fully armed and the Turkish population exasperated and exhausted, and everything prepared to give her a plausible excuse for renewing her occupation.

At present I am told that a great portion of the Roumelian militia is composed of Bulgarians of the worst character, brought over from Varna. It is much to be feared that the policy of the Porte may even favour such a state of things. I have no reason for saying so beyond surmise, but I cannot help thinking there are many Turks who would not be sorry to receive back the province from Russia on the old terms, quite forgetting that a renewal of the old misgovernment would, in a few years, inevitably hand over to other Powers whatever territory now remains to Turkey in Europe.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 412.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 59.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October 11, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a Petition which was left at my hotel yesterday. I have not been able to answer it, as it bears no address, and I do not know by whose hands it came.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF

Inclosure in No. 412.

Petition from Bulgarians of Aki Chelebe.

Votre Excellence,

A UNE distance de quinze heures du côté sud de Philippopoli se trouve au milieu des Montagnes de Rhodope notre district nommé Abi-Chélébi, qui dépend du Sandjak de Philippopoli, et se consiste de quarante villages, dont les vingt sont habités par de purs Bulgares, l'un est mixte, et les dix-neuf sont habités par des Turcs.

Les dits vingt villages Bulgares sont situés tous en deçà du côté du nord de la Rivière d'Arda, tandis que les villages Turcs sont situés au delà du côté du sud de la même rivière; excepté un seul mixte, nommé Pachmakli, et deux autres petits villages habités par des Bulgares Turcs (Pomaks), et nommés Iphiak et Kurchali.

D'après ce que l'on a tracé les frontières de la Roumélie Orientale au Congrès de Berlin, tous les villages de notre district restent en dehors des frontières de l'autonomie.

L'étendue où se trouvent les villages Bulgares au long de l'est à l'ouest ne

renferme plus de six heures de distance, tandis que la distance au large du côté du sud de la frontière jusqu'à la Rivière d'Arda est de trois heures.

Attendu que d'après les décisions du Congrès de Berlin une Commission particulière fut chargé de l'aplanissement, et de la réparation des frontières de la ligne tracée par le Congrès selon la situation, et qu'à présent la Conférence est convoquée à Constantinople, nous soussignés Bulgares, habitant des vingt et un villages sus-mentionnés, nous nous adressons à votre Excellence, par la présente très-humble requête, en vous priant de donner les instructions nécessaires aux membres qui prendront part à la Commission sus-mentionnée de la part du Gouvernement qu'y vont représenter, pour que la population Bulgare de notre district soit incluse aussi dans les frontières de l'autonomie après avoir fixé votre attention aux raisons suivantes :—

1. Que la frontière naturelle aussi selon la situation géographique est la Rivière d'Arda.

2. Que tous les villages, excepté deux qui se trouvent en deçà de la rive gauche, sont habités par des Bulgares.

3. Que les vivres pour la nourriture de la population, à cause de la localité pierreuse, sont fournis toujours des champs de Philippopoli de même que le travail et la subsistance des habitants de cette contrée, est dans ces endroits-là de ce département de Philippopoli.

4. En dehors de ce cercle et nominalement de la rive droite de la Rivière d'Arda, jusqu'à la mer, la population est exclusivement Musulmane.

En recommandant à votre attention les raisons exposées ci-dessus, nous avons de la confiance à la justice de l'Etat que vous représentez que vous ne permettrez pas que la population Bulgare de notre pays soit exclue des frontières de l'autonomie, parce qu'une pareille mesure sera en état de rendre impossible notre existence dans ce pays-là.

Agréez, &c.
(Suivent 49 signatures.)

No. 413.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 1224.) [B.B.]
My Lord, *Therapia, October 7, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose extract from a letter received from a French gentleman at Rodosto, and given to me by Admiral Sir C. Commerell, describing outrages committed by the Greeks in the neighbourhood of that place upon Mussulmans.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 413.

Extract from a Letter received from a French Gentleman at Rodosto, dated September 22, 1878.

LES Grecs cependant font beaucoup de mal dans les villages Musulmans de ce district. La semaine dernière les Grecs de quelques villages avoisinant du canton dit Inédjek envahirent un village Musulman, dont les habitants avaient fait au commencement de la guerre, et fondirent sur trois familles qui rentrèrent dans leur foyer, massacrèrent deux hommes et trois femmes. Les survivants de ces familles réussirent à s'échapper et arrivèrent ici la nuit passée dans un état désespéré. J'ai vu une jeune femme dans des douleurs atroces, elle a la manelle droite coupée et un coup de sabre, une blessure profonde et béante au dos, et une balle logée dans l'aine, et elle vivait encore. Une deuxième femme porte une blessure considérable à la tête, et une troisième femme, âgée d'une trentaine d'années, ayant la cuisse perforée d'une balle.

Je l'assure c'est ignoble et navrant rien qu'à y penser, et si le Gouvernement qui succédera les Russes ne prend pas des mesures sérieusement efficaces nous aurons des scènes inouïes.

No. 414.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 1227. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 8, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a private letter addressed to me by Acting Consul Barker with reference to the proceedings of Mr. St. Clair, who has recently been in command of the insurgents in Mount Rhodope. I understand that Mr. St. Clair has arrived in Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 414.

Acting Consul Barker to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Private.)
Dear Sir, *Salonica, October 1, 1878.*

THE French steamer has come in from Cavalla this morning, but leaving again for Constantinople suddenly, does not give me time for writing an official letter and copying it. I give your Excellency the substance hurriedly.

One of the insurgent officers, called Kara Yousouf, among the Rhodope insurgents having a grudge against another called Omer Agha, separated himself from the rest and succeeding in getting round him a large party of the disaffected insurgents and other fanatics, attacked the village Kygiali, shot Omer Agha, Jefsul Agha, and Habil Agha, and would have killed General St. Clair had he been there. On his return St. Clair found himself compelled to fly to Lagos, where he embarked with Paget for Salonica, hoping to engage the Vali of Salonica to assist him in quelling this revolt against his authority and restoring discipline.

From the Vali at Salonica he obtained a letter addressed to the Mutessarif of Drama to place a regiment of regular Turkish soldiers under his orders; but on arriving there he found the Mutessarif of Drama very much inclined to arrest him, "by order of the Porte." He then returned to Cavalla, and leaving Mr. Paget there, he came on to Salonica, and is here at this moment, in the hotel, where his appearance and bearing is by no means creditable to the name of Englishman which he bears. In the meantime the party against him have been getting up a "masbata" at Xanthe, accusing him and the European officers with him of all sorts of horrors committed.

The Vali is unwilling to arrest him because he does not know his real position with the Porte, declaring he has not received any answers to his telegrams on this subject. He would willingly get rid of him, but there is no Turkish ship-of-war going to Constantinople.

He is running up a long bill at the hotel, which he is totally unable to pay.

I hope a British steamer will arrive here this week on its way to the capital, and then he would go on board, for he will not, he says, put himself under the risk of falling into the hands of the Russians. The French steamer which takes this would have been an excellent direct opportunity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. BARKER.

No. 415.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 1228.) [B.B.]
My Lord, *Therapia, October 8, 1878*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch addressed to me by Vice-Consul Calvert, giving further accounts of the horrible and revolting treatment of the Mussulman population by the Bulgarians under the protection of Russia. I would fain hope that your Lordship will think fit not only to present to Parliament this and other despatches of a similar nature from our Consular Agents, in order that public opinion in England may be enlightened as to the state of things that has been brought about by the Russian

occupation of the European provinces of Turkey, but that your Lordship will also take some steps to make known at St. Petersburg the unparalleled sufferings to which the Mahommedans of those provinces have been, and are still, exposed. I cannot believe that the Emperor of Russia can have any knowledge of the crimes that are being committed upon an innocent and unoffending population in his name. Her Majesty's Government and the English people were the first to denounce the outrages of the Mussulmans upon the Bulgarians, and to call upon the Porte to punish their authors. They have consequently, it appears to me, some right to bring to the notice of the Russian Government outrages infinitely more terrible and more numerous committed by the Bulgarians, in a country under the military and civil administration of Russia, upon Mussulmans.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 415.

Acting Vice-Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Philippopolis, October 5, 1878.

Sir,

THE following facts are reported to me by a person whom I sent to ascertain the state of affairs at Carlowa and Sopot, and who has just returned. I had instructed him to make particular inquiries about the girl Nazly, whom I was instrumental in restoring to her parents in the month of March last, and who was subsequently sent back to Carlowa, her native town, together with her parents.

My informant states that, out of about 300 Turkish refugees who returned to Carlowa, only about 100 remain alive. There have been few public assassinations of Turks, but Mussulmans disappear daily, and the survivors do not dare to inquire, or to cause inquiries to be made, as to their fate.

The father and mother of Nazly disappeared in this way some months ago. About three weeks ago the girl herself, and another Turkish girl, daughter of Tchiraktchai Ali, were taken by Peter Lewski, and two other Bulgarians, to a cascade near the town, and killed—no doubt after being outraged.

Peter Lewski is said to have killed many of the Turkish returned refugees, and to have buried or hidden their bodies on his premises.

Five days ago Vassil Pope, Spasso Iconomoff, Costa Kapanoff, and four other Bulgarians of Sopot (a large Bulgarian village close to Carlowa) took the daughter of a Turk named Dervish, and the daughter of Kara Murad, of Tartali, to gather walnuts for them. They and others ravished both the girls; and Dervish's daughter, who is only 14 years of age, is said to be dying of the injuries she received from her brutal seducers.

Dervish is in prison at Carlowa, and is beaten daily to make him confess certain crimes with which he is charged.

Out of 200 Turkish houses at Carlowa, 100 have been destroyed, and the destruction still continues. The remaining Turkish houses are mostly inhabited by Bulgarians.

The Bulgarians there are very much excited, owing to the call for volunteers to fight against the Turks in Macedonia. About 100 volunteers have already enlisted at Carlowa, and they are publicly sworn in the churches.

The Bulgarian inhabitants are all armed to the teeth, and fire pistols and guns day and night from the sheer exuberance of their feeling.

In the villages round Carlowa the condition of the Turks is no better. Of the refugees from that district, who returned a fortnight ago, about thirty have already "disappeared." In the town the Turks are afraid to show themselves in the streets. They are dragged from their hiding places to work for the Bulgarians, and often nothing more is heard of them.

Their women are outraged continually.

The Governor of Carlowa is a M. Raïnoff. This gentleman, who is a native of the place, called upon me at the time of his appointment, and solemnly assured me that he would answer for the good treatment of the Turks.

I am now informed, however, that the authorities of Carlowa, though perfectly cognizant of the crimes which are hourly taking place, take no steps whatever to put a stop to them.

If the condition of the returned Mussulman population in Bulgaria (and in the towns of Roumelia where there are no European residents to check by their presence the savagery of the Bulgarian Christians) may be judged of by the treatment of the Turks at Carlowa, the sum total of persecution suffered by the Mussulmans in the occupied provinces must be too fearful for the imagination to conceive.

Unhappily there is only too much reason to believe that the fate of the Turks who remained in their homes north of the Balkans has been even worse than that of their co-religionists in Roumelia. A Bulgarian priest, who arrived here from Plevna, exultingly informed a friend of mine lately that out of 2,000 or 3,000 Turks who had remained in the districts of Plevna, Lofteha, and Selvi, not fifty were left alive, and that it was the firm determination of the Bulgarians to prevent any of the Turks who had fled from ever returning.

Perhaps it will convince any people in England who still doubt the reality of the revolting deeds which it has been for the last eight months my disagreeable duty to record, to know that my French colleague, M. Boyssel, who travelled to Constantinople last month, saw, near the railway station at Papazly, Turkish women pursued in the fields by Bulgarian recruits, and heard shots fired by the latter. The station-master informed him that three Turks had been killed that day, in the vicinity of the railway station, for resisting the Bulgarians who were publicly violating their wives and daughters.

On the advice of the French Consul the station-master laid the matter before Colonel Wlassoff (the officer who, in March last, wished to call me to account for denouncing the conduct of some of the Russian soldiery), who happened to be in the train with a squadron of Cossack cavalry. But Colonel Wlassoff declined to interfere on the pretext that he could not act without orders; and the station-master was obliged to remain a terrified spectator of the scenes of violence going on under his very windows until the next evening, when the Russian authorities sent a detachment of troops from Philippopolis to restore order.

From the statements of lately returned refugees, it appears now beyond a doubt that the Russian plan of ridding Bulgaria and Roumelia of their Turkish population has practically succeeded.

Taking into account the Turks who have been massacred, those who died during their flight, and those who have been transported to Anatolia, the Turkish population of this sandjak is probably already reduced by one-half. How many of the remainder will survive the persecution, the hunger, and the cold in prospect for them during the coming winter will depend upon the character of the season and the energy of the International Commission.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

No. 416.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 1229.)

My Lord,

Therapia, October 8, 1878.

ATTEMPTS are being persistently made by those who desire to frustrate the policy of England as regards this country, and to destroy English influence, to mislead Turkish public opinion as to the reforms which Her Majesty's Government have required of the Porte, by the grossest misrepresentations as to their nature and extent. I beg to inclose an article expressly inserted for this object in the "Phare du Bosphore," a paper which is well known to be inspired from sources very hostile to England. This article, I regret to say, has been reproduced in the Turkish newspapers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 416.

Extract from the "Phare du Bosphore" of October 5, 1878.

ON assure que les dernières réunions du Conseil des Ministres sous la présidence de Sa Majesté le Sultan, avaient pour objet l'examen du programme des réformes en Asie Mineure présenté par l'Angleterre.

Ce programme comprendrait, si nos renseignements sont exacts, environ soixante-dix Articles. Nous en résumons les principales dispositions.

Il y aurait, en premier lieu, une réforme radicale du système tributaire actuellement

en vigueur, par la suppression des dîmes et l'établissement d'un impôt foncier. De plus des fonctionnaires Anglais seraient nommés dans l'administration des finances.

Une gendarmerie locale serait organisée sous la haute direction d'un certain nombre d'officiers Anglais désignés par leur Gouvernement.

Des Cours d'Appel Anglaises seraient installées dans tous les vilayets de l'Asie Mineure.

Un Commissaire-Général Anglais siégerait dans un des vilayets du centre, et jouirait des pouvoirs les plus étendus. Toutes les mesures et les dispositions administratives à appliquer en Asie Mineure seraient concertées entre la Sublime Porte et le Commissaire-Général Britannique.

Le Commissaire-Général serait représenté dans les provinces par les Consuls et les Agents Consulaires; dans les localités où il n'y a pas de Consuls, ni d'Agents Consulaires, par des Commissaires Spéciaux.

Ces représentants exerceraient le droit de surveillance sur la marche de l'administration dans les limites assignées à leur juridiction.

Ce programme a soulevé de nombreuses objections de la part de la Sublime Porte, surtout en ce qui concerne les pouvoirs du Commissaire-Général et des Commissaires Spéciaux ainsi que l'installation dans chaque vilayet d'une Cour d'Appel composée de Juges Anglais.

Il y a en ce moment un échange très-actif de dépêches entre Londres et Constantinople en vue d'un arrangement.

Si telles sont, en réalité, les conditions de ce programme, s'il n'y a pas d'exagération dans cette part d'ingérance que l'on attribue au Cabinet de Londres, nous comprenons parfaitement et l'attitude hostile de la grande majorité du Conseil des Ministres et l'approbation donnée par Sa Majesté au rejet de la plupart de ces conditions.

A notre avis, la situation exceptionnellement difficile de l'Empire n'est pas un motif suffisant pour lui demander d'aliéner ses droits souverains sur les Provinces Asiatiques.

On nous dit qu'un des principaux arguments de l'Ambassadeur Britannique pour le faire accepter, c'est que ce programme peut seul protéger l'Asie Mineure contre les entreprises d'un puissant voisin.

Nous ignorons ce que l'avenir réserve à ces provinces; mais certes nous ne l'ignorerions plus si la combinaison Anglaise était acceptée.

L'Angleterre se préoccupe beaucoup moins de sauver l'Empire que de s'en assurer l'héritage.

Voilà l'impression qui ressort pour nous du programme qu'elle voudrait appliquer en Asie Mineure.

No. 417.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 1230.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 8, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1213 of the 2nd instant, I have the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Acting Vice-Consul Calvert, relative to the demand of the Russian authorities at Philippopolis for Consular assistance in billeting Russian officers on the houses of British subjects.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 417.

Acting Vice-Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Philippopolis, September 28, 1878.*

I HAD the honour to telegraph to your Excellency to-day as follows:—

"Russian authorities officially request assistance of Consular Body in requisitioning lodgings for Russian officers and civil functionaries in houses of foreign subjects. My colleagues have consented, subject to receipt of contrary instructions from their Embassies. I have replied I cannot sanction occupation of British subjects' houses without your authorization."

I now beg to inclose copies of the Governor's official letter to me, requesting my co-operation in the requisitioning of lodgings in the houses of British subjects, and of my reply.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 417.

Baron Hübsch-Grossthal to Acting Vice-Consul Calvert.

M. le Consul, *Philippopoli, le Septembre, 1878.*

DANS le but de faciliter à la police la distribution des logements aux militaires et employés Russes, et d'éviter des désagréments avec les sujets étrangers propriétaires ou locataires, je vous prie de vouloir bien permettre que le Drogman du Consulat accompagne l'officier de police que je désignerai pour prendre les maisons encore disponibles. Ces messieurs, d'un commun accord, détermineront le nombre de chambres à donner, et lorsqu'un logement [*sic*], il ne fera pas d'opposition à la police, ayant été préalablement avisé.

Vous voudrez, peut-être, aussi permettre qu'un officier de police se rend dans votre Chancellerie pour prendre note de tous les sujets et protégés du Gouvernement que vous représentez.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) Baron HÜBSCH-GROSSTHAL.

Inclosure 3 in No. 417.

Acting Vice-Consul Calvert to Baron Hübsch-Grossthal.

M. le Gouverneur, *Philippopoli, le 28 Septembre, 1878.*

J'AI l'honneur d'accuser réception de votre communication officielle et de vous notifier que je crois devoir la référer à l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté Britannique à Constantinople.

Je ne saurais, sans avoir de lui une autorisation officielle, consentir à la domiciliation de militaires ou d'employés civils dans des maisons appartenant à, ou louées par, des sujets Britanniques contre le gré de ces derniers.

Si, pourtant, son Excellence l'Ambassadeur serait d'avis que la clause des capitulations qui prescrit l'inviolabilité des domiciles de sujets étrangers soit, en considération des circonstances exceptionnelles dans lesquelles nous nous trouvons, temporairement écartée, je m'empresserai d'accéder à votre demande, en mettant à votre disposition le Drogman de ce Vice-Consulat pour assister à la réquisition de logements dans les maisons de sujets ou de protégés Britanniques.

Quant à la liste de ces sujets et protégés, que votre Excellence me demande, j'ai l'honneur de vous référer à ma lettre officielle par laquelle je vous ai indiqué les noms des sujets Anglais qui résident à Philippopoli.

Je vous envoie aujourd'hui, ci-jointe, une copie de cette liste, à laquelle j'ai ajouté le nom d'un protégé Anglais, omis dans l'original.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

No. 418.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 1231. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 8, 1878.*

SIR ALFRED SANDISON has been endeavouring to ascertain the truth of the rumours that have reached me as to the success of the Russian Ambassador in his attempts to re-establish the predominant influence which Russia exercised previous to the war in the palace and at the Porte. In a memorandum on the subject he states that "a reaction amongst the Turks against the English is supposed to be daily gaining ground,

in consequence of the reforms intended for Asia, which have been grossly misrepresented to the public here both by the Turkish and local European press. The Russians are represented as making much political capital out of the present feeling; but, as far as I can judge, there is no ostensible change in the sentiments of the official classes towards England and her policy in Turkey. The only fact worth mentioning, as implying a strong wish on the part of the Porte to keep well with the Russians at the present moment, is a severe general order to the press not to publish anything calculated to displease or offend them."

A strict inquiry is being made, at my suggestion, at the Palace, as to the supposed betrayal to the Russian Ambassador of certain documents in the possession of the Sultan, to which reference is made in my telegram to your Lordship No. , Secret, of . The result is not yet known; but the traitor is suspected to be one of the "Maheinje's," who generally attend upon the Sultan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 419.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 1252. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 8, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose an extract from a private letter from Vice-Consul Calvert, which contains some information as to the proceedings of the Russians at Philippopolis which may be of interest to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 419.

Extract from Letter from Vice-Consul Calvert, dated Philippopolis, October 5, 1878.

(Confidential.)

It was said some time ago that the Bulgarian Exarch was to fix his residence at Philippopolis permanently. I am now positively informed that this plan has been set aside. He would probably have returned to Constantinople ere this but that Prince Dondoukoff pressed him to stay on here; but, if I am rightly informed, the Exarch will establish himself permanently at Constantinople. The principal reason of this decision, I believe, is that the Bulgarians of Macedonia, if they are to remain under the Turks, are supposed to require a representative to protect their cause in the Turkish capital; and they are said to have threatened to embrace the Roman Catholic religion unless the arrangement in question is adopted.

Christian (Greek and Bulgarian) refugees have been arriving in great numbers since yesterday, both by train and by road, from the shores of Marmora. If this immigration continues long on the present scale, there will be a great increase of distress in the winter.

The produce of the tithes was sold here yesterday to a M. Maréchal, who is said to be acting on behalf of M. Bergier, a personal friend of Prince Dondoukoff's, who, I am told, puts up at his house whenever he visits Constantinople. There is a great outcry among the other would-be purchasers, who allege that their tenders were all shown to Maréchal before the latter sent in his offer. What is certain is, that the tenders were opened by the Prince in private, instead of in public, as is the usual practice, and that Maréchal, several days before the sale, confidently informed the other "commissionnaires" that they stood no chance, as the thing had already been promised to him, and he was so certain of getting it, that he went down to Haskoui, where all the town and village authorities were ordered to give him every facility for inspecting the grain. The total sum which the Russians expect to realize for the districts of Slimnia and Philippopolis is 150,000*l.* This would be less than half the average of the tithe revenue. I will send your Excellency a despatch on this subject as soon as I have more details.

The Bulgarian peasantry are buying cattle to a great extent, and the reconstruction of houses in the destroyed villages is continuing very actively. At Kalofer, which was

utterly destroyed, 300 houses have already been built. Most of the new houses are larger and more substantial than the old ones, the materials of the Turkish habitations having been freely used by the Bulgars.

No. 420.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 1253.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 8, 1878.*

IT appears from a despatch addressed to Mr. Consul-General Fawcett by Dr. Stanislas Peechioli, Acting British Vice-Consul at Cavalla, that dissensions have arisen in the "National Army" of the Rhodope, which have resulted in the flight of Mr. St. Clair, who has for some time acted as its Chief under the name of Haidar Bey.

After the last attack of the Russians in the neighbourhood of Merikeni a certain Kara Yussuf was arrested at the instance of Omer Agha for having been absent from his post. Colonel Abdul Beki Bey caused him to be tried by a Council of War and he was condemned to death.

The execution of the sentence was postponed for three months, and Mr. St. Clair, in consideration of the former services of the prisoner, decided to remit the sentence altogether, and ordered him to rejoin his head-quarters. On his way he escaped and raised a band against his accuser, Omer Agha.

This band, composed of undisciplined Bashi-Bazouks, assisted by the Beys of Drama, Xanthi, and Ghumuldjina, who had long been dissatisfied at seeing a foreigner at the head of the forces, were sufficient in number, with daily accessions, to become a formidable body.

On the 19th ultimo they appeared before Gigialli at a moment when Mr. St. Clair with the greater part of his officers was in the mountains. They summoned the town to surrender, and having obtained possession of it, they captured a number of officers devoted to Mr. St. Clair, and shot Omer Agha, Fevtul Agha, and Ali Agha, after a sort of trial gone through with the object of giving the murder an aspect of legality. A number of officers and soldiers were also imprisoned and nothing is known of their fate.

Mr. St. Clair being informed of what had taken place, sent his Aide-de-camp, Mr. George Paget, into the town, and the latter succeeded in entering it twice and in bringing away with him three persons whose lives Mr. St. Clair was particularly anxious to save.

Mr. St. Clair, refusing a proposal of Kara Yussuf to enter the town, started for Lagos, and probably owed his life to losing his way, as a company of Bashi-Bazouks were in pursuit of him.

He subsequently endeavoured to obtain the assistance of Turkish regular troops in quelling the disturbance. He succeeded, indeed, in obtaining an order from the Vali of Salonica to the Mutessarif of Drama, to place a regiment at his orders, but in the meantime various accusations were made against him, and, instead of obtaining assistance, he was threatened with imprisonment.

Such is the account given by M. Peechioli, for the accuracy of which I cannot vouch. Mr. St. Clair is now in Constantinople and has been good enough to "report his arrival to me and his readiness to do all in his power to assist me in any efforts to re-establish order and justice in this unfortunate country."

Safvet Pasha, to whom I mentioned Mr. St. Clair's arrival, said that he did not know what to do with him. He had been and was, his Highness said, the cause of great trouble and embarrassment to the Government, and it would be very desirable that he should leave the country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 421.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 1234.) [B.B.]

Therapia, October 8, 1878.

My Lord,

IN pursuance of your Lordship's instructions I have strongly urged upon the Grand Vizier the importance of taking measures without delay for the surrender of Podgoritza and Spuz to Montenegro, and of affording a proof to Europe that the Porte is making arrangements to comply with the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin in this matter.

I warned his Highness that unless these two places were given over at once Russia would probably avail herself of the pretext that the Turkish Government had not fulfilled the obligations imposed upon it by the Treaty, to inform the Powers that she could not reduce her army of occupation in Eastern Roumelia and Bulgaria to 50,000 men, but that she would be compelled to maintain at least 100,000 in those provinces. I further communicated to his Highness the substance of Sir Henry Elliot's telegram on this subject of the 4th instant, repeated to me by your Lordship.

Safvet Pasha replied that the Porte would lose no time in taking the necessary steps for the surrender of Podgoritza and Spuz, and that he was glad at the same time to be able to state that he anticipated no further difficulty in the matter, as the Albanian population of Colatchin, which had been preparing to offer a most determined resistance to the cession of that district to Montenegro, had already, thanks to the efforts of the Civil Governor, actually given it up to Montenegro, together with the three blockhouses which it contained.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 422.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 1235. Secret.)

Therapia, October 9, 1878.

My Lord,

WHEN I was with Safvet Pasha this morning his Highness mentioned casually that he had been present yesterday at a private audience granted by the Sultan to Prince Labanoff. He said that when His Majesty heard of the approaching departure of the Russian Ambassador for Livadia, he sent one of his Aides-de-camp to his Excellency charged with compliments and other messages which His Majesty requested Prince Labanoff to deliver to the Emperor; the Prince had, however, already left Buyukdéré on his voyage. The Sultan had, therefore, requested the Ambassador on his return to inform His Imperial Majesty of what had occurred, and his Excellency had been directed to ask an audience of His Majesty to thank him on the part of the Emperor for his friendly messages.

Safvet Pasha told me that the Sultan had asked him to be present at the audience, but that he had excused himself on the ground that his presence would give the interview an official character, which his Highness considered it very desirable to avoid, especially as Hobart Pasha had informed him that there was a report to the effect that Turkey was about to enter into a secret alliance with Russia. The Sultan, his Highness said, had immediately replied that this was a reason for his presence at the audience in order that he might be a witness to all that passed on the occasion.

I thought this a good opportunity of calling the attention of Safvet Pasha to a statement which had reached me, from a source not unworthy of attention, that Prince Labanoff had said that the Sultan had sent a person to him before his departure for Livadia to request him to propose, in His Majesty's name, to the Emperor a close and intimate understanding between Turkey and Russia directed against England. I observed that if there were any foundation for this statement the matter would be a very grave one.

His Highness absolutely repudiated the supposition that the Sultan could have proposed any such understanding, and declared that he had described to me exactly what had occurred. "You might as well say," exclaimed his Highness, "that fire and water had united, as that Turkey had formed an alliance with Russia against England." The Sultan, his Highness added, had seriously at heart to send a secret Envoy to Afghanistan to support the policy of England, and had directed him to choose some capable man for the mission, and to consult Ahmed Khuleissi Effendi, who had been to Cabul last year, as to the best means for carrying out his intention.

I can scarcely doubt from Safvet Pasha's manner and language that he was speaking the truth. That Prince Labanoff has spread the report of the supposed alliance, I have every reason to believe, and that it was done with an object can scarcely be questioned. It is not very probable that if the Sultan had proposed a secret alliance with Russia, the Russian Ambassador would have disclosed the secret.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 423.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 1237.)

Therapia, October 8, 1878.

My Lord,

I AM informed by Mr. Dragoman Marinich that the Grand Vizier, on the proposition of the "Mustechar" of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, has ordered the formation of a Ministerial Commission to examine certain important claims which are being pressed at the Porte by foreign Embassies, and upon which the Council of Ministers has not found time to come to a decision.

This Commission, which is to meet twice a-week, will be presided over by his Excellency Server Pasha, Minister of Justice, and will be composed of his Excellency Zuhdi Effendi, Minister of Finance, Ohannes Effendi Tchomitch, Minister of Commerce, the Representative of the Ministry of Public Works, his Excellency Savas Pasha, and Mr. Tavin.

Mr. Marinich expresses much doubt as to whether this Commission is calculated to accomplish the object in view.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 424.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 17.)

(Secret.)
(Extract.)

Therapia, October 9, 1878.

THE Ministers have been assembled daily by the Sultan in Council at the Palace to consider the Bosnian question. The final decision arrived at has been that after what has taken place in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the forcible occupation by Austria of those provinces without a previous understanding having been come to by her with the Porte, and the consequent bloodshed, it would be impossible for the Sultan to sanction the signature of the Convention proposed by Count Andrassy. Carathéodory Pasha was consequently authorized to inform the Austro-Hungarian Minister for Foreign Affairs that the Porte declined to accept the Convention, and was content to fall back upon the declaration signed at Berlin on the 13th July by the three Austrian Plenipotentiaries. He was at the same time instructed to assure Count Andrassy that the Turkish Government in coming to this resolution most earnestly desired that no interruption should take place in the friendly and intimate relations that had so long existed between the two countries, and which it was the firm intention of Turkey to maintain.

Safvet Pasha informed me this morning that he had just learnt by a telegram from Carathéodory Pasha that Count Andrassy had received this communication in a friendly spirit instead of strongly resenting it as his Highness feared would be the case. His Highness therefore hopes that the Bosnian question may be looked upon as satisfactorily settled.

The Grand Vizier further stated to me that Carathéodory Pasha had been instructed to represent very urgently to Count Andrassy the danger of an advance of the Austro-Hungarian army upon Novi-Bazaar. That province was, his Highness said, now happily undisturbed; but if Austrian troops were to attempt to enter it, there was very reason to expect that a desperate resistance would be made by the Albanians, and much bloodshed would be the result, as the Porte would have no power to control the

population. It was, I believe, the intention of the Porte to ask the other Powers to use their friendly mediation to induce Austria to agree to this request.

Count Andrassy replied that for the present orders would be given to the Austrian Commander not to march upon Novi-Bazaar, but that he could not enter into any engagement on the subject for the future.

No. 425.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 1239.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October 9, 1878.*

SAFVET PASHA informs me that Prince Labanoff had been to him to complain that the Christian population of the districts evacuated by the Russian armies were flying in great numbers, fearing ill-treatment from the Mussulmans, and not relying upon the protection promised them by the Porte. So considerable was this exodus, the Prince said, that the retreat of the Russian forces was seriously impeded by it, and consequently they would have to stop in the positions they now occupied unless measures were taken at once to prevent the migration of the Christians. His Excellency therefore proposed that the Porte should send, without delay, a functionary of high rank to reassure the Christian population and to induce them not to abandon their homes.

His Highness replied that until the Russian troops had evacuated Adrianople, the authority of the Porte could not be restored in the province of which it is the capital, and proper measures could not be taken for the protection of its populations. His Highness, therefore, trusted that the Russians would lose no time in withdrawing from the territories they still occupied.

Prince Labanoff thereupon stated that the time had not yet come for the evacuation of the territories occupied by the Russian forces outside of Eastern Roumelia, as according to the Treaty of San Stefano they were not to be restored to Turkey until three months after the signature of the definite Treaty of Peace, and upon this point the Treaty of San Stefano had not been changed or modified by that of Berlin. The definite Treaty proposed by Russia had not yet been accepted and signed by the Porte, consequently there could be no question, for the present, of the withdrawal from Adrianople of the Russian troops.

Safvet Pasha stated to me that he had heard this declaration with very great surprise, as it was the first time that the Russian Ambassador had said anything to lead him to believe that the evacuation of the territories occupied by Russia outside of the boundaries of Eastern Roumelia was not to take place immediately. He had, indeed, inferred the contrary by the measures already taken by the Russian military authorities for the withdrawal of their troops from the neighbourhood of Constantinople and of the Sea of Marmora. His Highness requested me very earnestly to lose no time in calling your Lordship's attention to Prince Labanoff's declaration. I did so by telegraph immediately after my interview with his Highness.

Safvet Pasha further stated to me that he had been informed that the Russian Government had sent, or was about to send, a Circular to the Powers denouncing massacres and outrages alleged to have been committed upon Christians by Mussulmans in places evacuated by the Turkish troops. His Highness begged me to express his hope to your Lordship that you would not credit the statements contained in this document. A strict inquiry had been made by order of the Porte which showed that, although isolated acts of robbery and murder may have occurred at a moment when, after the withdrawal of the Russian troops, the authority of the Porte had not been firmly re-established, there had been no massacres or ill-treatment of the Christian population as alleged by the Russians. His Highness is convinced that unfounded, or or highly exaggerated, statements are being made on this subject by Russia in order to justify to Europe her continued occupation of Turkish territory which she was bound to evacuate. His Highness said that Prince Labanoff, in speaking to him of the emigration of the Christian population, had inadvertently admitted that it was not on account of any ill-treatment that they had experienced or feared, but in order that they might settle in Roumelia and Bulgaria and be under a Christian Government.

I have learnt from several sources that Prince Labanoff has been spreading the most exaggerated reports of outrages and massacres said to have been committed by Turkish soldiers and Mussulmans upon the Christian population of the evacuated districts. His Excellency has accused the Porte of sending back to those districts the

authorities and zaptiehs that were previously employed in them, and who were distrusted and feared by the Christians. His Excellency even affirms that he has received information that they took with them a sackfull of manacles, and actually showed one of my colleagues a pair of these manacles which, he stated, he had succeeded in obtaining. There can be little doubt, I think, that Safvet Pasha is right in saying that the migration of the Christians is encouraged by Russian agents, and that stories of massacres and outrages are invented in order to account for it to Europe, and to justify any prolonged occupation that Russia may contemplate, of Turkish territory outside of Eastern Roumelia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 426.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 1242.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October 10, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a note from his Highness Safvet Pasha, giving the names of the Turkish officers who have been appointed to act as Commissioners for the delimitation of the frontiers of Bulgaria and Servia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 426.

Safvet Pasha to Sir A. H. Layard.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Constantinople, le 9 Octobre, 1878.*

J'AI l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence que le Gouvernement Impérial, en vertu des dispositions du Traité de Berlin, a nommé membres des Commissions de Délimitation :—

1. Pour la Bulgarie :—

Le Général-de-Brigade Tahir Pacha, auquel sont adjoints :
Le Lieutenant-Colonel Vessim Bey.
Le Major Nazim Bey.
Le Major Hassan Bey.
L'Adjutant-Major Mehmed Ali Effendi, et
Le Capitaine Chéréfeddin Effendi.

2. Pour la Serbie :—

Le Général-de-Brigade Yahir Pacha, auquel sont adjoints :
Le Colonel Djévad Bey.
Le Lieutenant-Colonel Salih Bey.
Le Major Hamid Bey, et
L'Adjutant-Major Avni Effendi.

Quant aux membres Ottomans de la Commission de Délimitation pour le Monténégro, je me réserve de les faire connaître prochainement à votre Excellence.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SAFVET.

No. 427.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 1243.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 10, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a private letter addressed to me by Vice-Consul Calvert, containing some interesting information as to the state of affairs at Philippopolis.

I need scarcely say that the statement alleged to have been made by Prince Dondoukoff as to money having been lavishly given by Colonel Fawcett to Turkish peasants, in order to persuade them to make exaggerated or false statements as to their treatment by the Russians, to the European Commission, is as absurd as it is unfounded.

Colonel Fawcett very kindly undertook, at much personal risk and inconvenience, to visit the Rhodope districts, in order to distribute amongst the suffering Mussulman refugees food and clothing sent for the purpose from Constantinople by the "Compassionate" and "International" funds. He was not supplied with money, and could only have had a very small sum with him.

The report that General Todleben had issued an order of the day stating that the Russian army in Bulgaria and Roumelia is no longer to be considered as an army of occupation, but as an army in a state of war, is worthy of serious consideration when taken in connection with what I have stated to your Lordship in my Confidential despatch No. 1245.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 427.

Acting Vice-Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Private.)
Sir, *Philippopolis, October 7, 1878.*

I AM informed that an order of the day has been issued by General Todleben which states that the Russian army in Roumelia and Bulgaria is no longer to be considered as an army of occupation, but as an army in a state of war." My Austrian colleague told my French colleague yesterday that he had seen a copy of this Proclamation at the railway-station here. The wording appears to me rather strange, but I give it as it was stated to me by the Austrian Vice-Consul. Accounts differ as to the direction in which Petko has gone. Some people assure me that he has not gone to Sofia, but has returned to Mount Rhodope to rejoin his band. I have heard no further news from Akbir-Tchelebe or Tchitak.

Prince Dondoukoff has lately been speaking very bitterly of the Rhodope Commission. He told M. Schmidt, of the Ottoman Bank, that the Commission had been everywhere preceded by Colonel Fawcett, who, by lavish gifts of money, had persuaded the Turkish peasants to make exaggerated or false statements as to their treatment by the Russians, and he said that there were now in Philippopolis Turks who had deposed to the fact of having received money from Colonel Fawcett to make these statements. He also related that Mr. Consul-General Fawcett had lately been condemned by the Has-keui Court of Justice to payment of a fine for thrashing a Bulgarian coachman, and that the sentence had been, or was about to be communicated to Constantinople for execution.

The lot of the Turks in the villages is truly awful, as your Excellency must have judged by my recent despatches; and there does not appear to be any prospect of amelioration until the Commission takes the administration into its hands. Russian justice, even when it is properly administered (which is seldom) seems to be administered without system. Fifteen Bulgarians were arrested the other day for the murder of some Turks in the Konoush district. In the Ghiopsou (Carlovo) and Karadja districts, where outrages and bloodshed are much more rife, no one is called to account.

The present immigration of Christians from the Adrianople district (the majority of whom are Bulgarians) will be another means of contributing to the success of the Russian plan for securing to the Bulgarians an overwhelming majority in Eastern Roumelia. Turks in some cases are being actually ordered out of their own houses to make room for the refugees, while there is hardly a Turkish household which has not generally to give up a portion (generally the best) of its dwelling to their unbidden guests. Very few of these refugees have suffered any injury from the returning Turks, but their flight was caused by accounts (whether true or false I cannot tell) of outrages committed by the Mussulmans in distant parts of their districts; to which cause must be added the advice to fly, which they say was given them by the Russians—not by Russian officials, but by irresponsible Russians.

As for the Turks (there are a few) who are living in the town, but are not natives of Philippopolis, they are being bundled across the river to the half-ruined houses in the suburb of Karshi-Aka, to leave room for the Bulgarian refugees in the better-preserved Turkish houses of the town.

Two Turkish widows have complained to me to-day that their houses are being pulled down over their heads by the police, on the pretext that they are in a too dilapidated condition to be left standing.

I fear there is ground for the suspicion that Shaban and Arif Aghas have been subjected to a renewal of ill-treatment in prison, as no one has been allowed to go near them for the last three days.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

No. 428.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 1244.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 10, 1878.*

ACCORDING to the official accounts received at the Porte and communicated to the Turkish newspapers, the insurrection in the district of Kozan, to which several recent despatches from Vice-Consul Gathernll, transmitted to your Lordship, refer, and which at one time threatened to give some trouble to the Turkish Government, has been entirely suppressed. Its promoter, Kozan Oglon Ahmed Pasha, has given himself up to Djevdet Pasha, who was sent against him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 429.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 1245. Confidential)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 10, 1878.*

I THINK it my duty to call your Lordship's attention to a matter which may be of considerable importance. Prince Lobanoff has more than once very pointedly stated to the Grand Vizier that Russia is still virtually in a state of war with Turkey, as no definite Treaty of Peace has yet been concluded between the two countries, neither the Treaty of Berlin nor that of San Stefano containing any Article declaring that peace has been re-established between them.

The Russians have still a very considerable force in the neighbourhood of Constantinople, and there are indications, as I have informed your Lordship, that they have no intention of withdrawing them and of evacuating Adrianople and Turkish territory occupied by them outside of the limits of the new Province of Eastern Roumelia.

At the same time, Russia is urging the Porte to send the troops that it has concentrated at Constantinople and in the Gallipoli Peninsula to occupy the territory which she has evacuated, thus withdrawing them from the lines of defence and scattering them to a great extent over the country.

The Turkish Government is also called upon to send troops to Albania and elsewhere, in order to maintain order and to compel the populations to conform to the decisions of the Congress of Berlin. The threatening attitude of Greece further renders it necessary for the Porte to concentrate a considerable force in Thessaly and Epirus. Under these circumstances, the armies required for the defence of the capital and of the lines of Bulair are very much weakened. In the event of any interruption of the negotiations now going on between Russia and the Porte for the conclusion of a definite Treaty, or if, upon any pretext, Russia were suddenly to renew hostilities against Turkey, the

Turkish troops would be so divided that they might fall an easy prey to an overwhelming Russian force, and neither Constantinople nor Bulair would, perhaps, be safe from a sudden attack.

There may be no sufficient ground for any apprehension on this matter, but it is one of so much importance that I have thought it desirable to bring it to the serious notice of the Grand Vizier. I have reason to know that my French colleague is also of opinion that the Porte should not lose sight of the danger of a sudden outbreak of hostilities with Russia, and that the army for the defence of Constantinople should not be weakened.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 430.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 17.)

(No. 1246.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October* 11, 1878.

MR. ST. CLAIR has addressed a letter to me, of which, in justice to him, I send your Lordship a copy. He has asked to see me, but I have considered it expedient for many reasons to decline to receive him. The Porte is anxious that he should leave Turkey, and I think it very desirable that he should do so, as he is a person who may cause considerable trouble to the Porte, and may do a good deal of mischief.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 430.

Mr. St. Clair to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Drama, September* 19, 1878.

THE turn which events are taking in the Rhodope is very deplorable, and now even great efforts on the part of Turkey and England will hardly stop the evil.

For six months I have kept these mountains in order and subordination; several Englishmen who have visited the Rhodope, as well as the International Commission, can bear testimony to this fact. Unfortunately, too little attention has been paid by the Porte to the state of this region, and instead of assistance, I have only met with chicanery and opposition. The consequence is that the power of keeping order escapes me, and I doubt if anyone else will be able to keep it.

And I may mostly attribute the state of ferment now reigning to the failure of the Commission, as well as to several other causes which I will here detail.

An enormous population of emigrants flocked principally to the border districts for the following reasons:—

1. They were there treated with more humanity than in the districts where there existed a Turkish rule; and;

2. To be near their homes, which they hoped to return to under the auspices of the European Powers.

However great the efforts made by us to feed these poor people, still they were naturally discontented, and an easy prey to intrigue-mongers and a cause of disorder. Next came a population naturally unruly, and now half-starved by the impossibility of communicating with the plains which fed it. This was, of course, worked upon by all kinds of agents, not even excluding the direct Russian agents, who engaged the people to surrender to Russia, and not believe in "Treacherous England, the real enemy of the Mussulmans, at whose instigation the Czar had been forced to punish the Turks." These words were strengthened by reading out or otherwise communicating Mr. Gladstone's lucubrations, and understand assurances of some Muftis that the Sultan was in secret alliance with Russia against England. Then came the agents of divers parties, Muradists, Mithadists, and rampant madmen, who spoke of the destruction of Europe, &c. And lastly came the local authorities, who acted like the sailors who break into the grog store when they see ship sinking. And the Beys and Aghas, as well as Tchorbadjis, who looked upon disasters as a means of plunder, buying cheap stolen cattle, &c. In such a state of convulsed society I succeeded in keeping order during six months, but

find it impossible to do so further, as all combines to render my efforts fruitless. The worst stage is, however, the events which have followed the departure of the Commission from the Rhodope. Until the arrival of this Commission, the people had hopes that when once Europe saw how dreadfully the Russians had behaved, and how well they had succeeded in being orderly, that then their misfortunes would cease and order be permanently restored, under any rule, but best the revised rule of the Sultan.

The Commission arrived, remained in the mountains a few days enjoying the hospitality of the poor mountaineers and the greatest freedom of inquiry (I have been since told that Colonel Fawcett prepared evidence, &c., for the Commission. This I solemnly declare to be untrue. Colonel Fawcett behaved, if anything, with too much discretion, not even communicating to me the object of the Commission he had received orders to join at Philippopolis, and for which purpose alone he passed through my lines), and then left, leaving behind it false hopes and seeds of indiscipline.

One of my subordinates, seeing that I acted with civility to the Russian Parliamentary, began to be insolent. I at once put him under arrest, but at the Turkish delegate's request released him, and since this man has been plotting against the cause of discipline so very hard to bear for these people.

About the same time a certain Said Effendi had come to the neighbourhood of my lines, there caused disorder to reign, and preached God knows what absurdities. (I learn that the same man went to Constantinople with a cock-and-a-bull story of having formed 30,000 men, the fact being that he never formed ten soldiers. I had even to arrest this person to prevent him doing worse mischief, as he preached a kind of subversive war on all, beginning, of course, by one against the State.) And, consequently, hurt the cause of order. (Colonel Fawcett was present at the arrest of this individual.) Therefore, when the Commission was in the Rhodope, I desired to be relieved of this command, as, once discipline shaken, I knew that it could not last; and the dangers of indiscipline I knew to be greater than one can describe. On the 12th August the Russians, who swore to an armistice, attacked us. They were, however, beaten back on one point, and obliged to capitulate on another; but on the strength of armistice they were allowed by my subordinate, Colonel Baki Bey, to retire. After that the Russians remained on peace, and worked underhand. An attempt to assassinate the officers of Chifflyk failed; but a few days later the whole lot rose in insurrection, with the cry of "No more taxes!" The local Governor joined the mob, and three officers were murdered. I arrived to witness these horrors, but had only forty men with me, and could not attack. One of Aali Suavi's people, a certain Cara Youzouf, tried by court-martial for cowardice but a fortnight before, and a certain Suleiman Agha, known to be in connection with Russia, led. When I summoned them not to commit murder, they answered that they had in hand an "illam," or sentence from the Porte. I then called upon the Chiefs of the mountain, and they all decided that I should go to Constantinople to cause the insurgents to be punished, and obtain the Firman which had been promised me by the Commission. Of course, had this been granted nothing would have happened; but there is no power on earth which can keep a country rule without any authority, and especially when a man is obliged to respect the Government which refuses to recognize your power, although it is ready enough to profit of your acts.

I now feel it my duty, sacrificing personal considerations, to lay the case clearly before your Excellency, and to insist upon the gravity of the situation.

This situation is untenable and full of danger. The Congress having more or less delimited the part which is to remain to Turkey, why does not the Porte disarm us, and replace our posts by regular troops, or, at any rate, give us proper commission? I begged the Porte to do so as soon as the Commission had by its acts recognized us as the army of the Rhodope; and had that been done, there would have been an end to this embroglio. At present the danger is so much the greater that I have every reason to believe that those who now rise against authority here, as well as in Albania, or those who ferment in Constantinople, are affiliated, and that at the bottom of it you will find Russia. General Ghserel has been here and in Albania, and he is one of Russia's Agents. I tried to get him arrested, but he kept clear of my men, and was not touched by the Turks. His arrest would have been all-important, as he could have told us a deal which is mysterious now. One thing is, however, certain, that is, that the subversive lot of Constantinople acts in the interior, and that it has succeeded in destroying discipline in Kirdjalli, Sultanieri, and Ahyr Tchelebi, which can only be re-established by two ways: either that I have to use force and shoot a number of those people, or else I should have a Firman sent me; or, far better still, that a regular force under a Turkish officer should occupy this line.

Of course, as I have not come here to fight Mussulmans, I must refuse to use force against the people out on mutiny unless ordered to do so by the Turkish authorities, and even then I could not do so, and should resign. Had a Firman been granted at once, nothing could have happened; but, naturally enough, the mutineers, being supported by some friends, and even by local authorities, and notably those of Gallipoli, tell the rest that I have no authority, and am not one of the Sultan's servants; on the contrary, they say that I am English, and then there is, of course, the mob led by those who accuse England of all the evil.

This, of course, is what Russia wanted, and has prepared. These people will end by murdering some Christians; upon this they will be declared to be real insurgents, and be attacked, undisciplined, and led by rabble. They will be defeated and forced to fly; then the Russian troops will have the choice between a peaceable and friendly occupation and annexation, or else will massacre all, in either of which cases England will suffer.

20th September.

I had got so far with this letter when I was arrested by the Mutessarif. There appears to be a telegram from Gallipoli demanding my arrestation. This proves the connivance of Governor in the murders, and gives me, therefore, no chance.

Arrest me in Drama, where I can, by simple calling for help, call up 2,000 men. I laugh at this, but I am deeply grieved, and see that Turkey digs its own grave.

Notes.

I left for Drama in order to move troops, to prevent further disturbances. In the meantime, by messages, I pacified the country. I was then at once arrested, and prevented from further action, and had to return to Salonica. There I was kept eleven days, in vain attempt to get to Constantinople by a safe route. The lies spread by the "outrance party" are very dangerous.

The people are for me and for order.

Some Chiefs of banditti, supported by the Kaimakams of Mustamly and Kumurdjina, induced the Mutessarif of Gallipoli to abound in these views, and send around messages for my arrest, on the absurd accusations contained in Captain Paget's letter; and this greatly hurt the cause of order.

These Chiefs, I am afraid (they have nothing to lose), will try to gain either popularity by raids on inoffensive Christian villages loot, and then run for it, or they will sell the country to the Russians, which will make confusion worse. There is but one thing to be done: send a few companies of regulars to replace our outposts, or else give me a proper Firman to keep order.

The murderers of Kirdjalli had a Firman from the Mutessarif, and I, therefore, could not oppose orders emanating from the Porte, and retired. Had I attacked them, I would have brought about worse evil.

I am, &c.
(Signed) B. ST. CLAIR.

No. 431.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 1247.—Secret.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 11, 1878.*

I RECEIVED this morning your Lordship's despatch No. 1180, Secret, of the 3rd instant, inclosing a copy of a despatch from your Lordship to Sir Henry Elliot relating to the Memorandum drawn up by Munîff Effendi for the Sultan on the Asiatic question, which had been obtained by Prince Labanoff.

I would remark, with regard to the statement alleged to have been made by Prince Labanoff to Count Zichy, that it is not true that the Memorandum in question was prepared "at the instigation of England." I have already informed your Lordship, in my telegram No. 886 of the 30th September, that I had learnt that such a Memorandum was in existence, but I have never seen it, and am not acquainted with its contents except by rumour. Safvet Pasha, to whom I spoke on the subject, assured me that it contained nothing with which the Russian Government might not be made acquainted.

If Count Zichy reported that the news from Afghanistan had caused a complete

panic at Constantinople, as stated to your Lordship by Count Deym, I am quite at a loss to know upon what grounds his Excellency formed this opinion. All I can say is, that I have never seen any symptoms of a panic on the subject, nor am I aware that the news of the differences between England and the Ameer Shere Ali has caused any excitement, or has been received with any interest by the Turkish populations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 432.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 1248.) [B.B.*]
My Lord, *Therapia, October 11, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches from Her Majesty's Consuls and Vice-Consuls at Larissa, Adrianople, Philippopolis, Scio, and Angora, on matters of interest in their respective districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 432.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Larissa, September 28, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Excellency, copy of a Report from Mr. Longworth upon the recent fires in the districts of Pharsala and Carditza.

Information has reached Larissa that the son of a sheep-farmer of the village of Zarko was murdered on the 26th instant by two Albanian soldiers belonging to a detachment employed in pursuit of brigands.

I have not yet procured the particulars, but I hear that the Commander-in-chief has put in irons two soldiers and a lieutenant who are strongly suspected of being implicated in this outrage.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 432.

Mr. Longworth to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Armyro, September 24, 1878.*

I HAVE to furnish you the following Report upon the recent destruction by fire of the crops in the district of Pharsala and sub-district of Domoco.

The ensuing list gives the number of the supposed incendiary acts:—

LIST.

Number of Fire.	Date of Fire.	Name of Village attacked.
1	June 27	1. Bedjiler.
		2. [illegible].
2	June 29 and 30	1. Joba.
		2. Ambelia.
		3. Velishoti.
		4. Agoryani.
3	July 12 and 13	1. Demirli.
		2. Hodji Omerli.
		3. Cutis Tchakmac.
4	July 12	Lefka.
5	August 15	Daioukli.
6	August 16	Alhauli.
7	August 20	Onvraka.

The losses at the villages of Bedjiler, Velishoti, Demirli, Lefka, Daioukli, Alhauli, and Onvraka, were exclusively sustained by Christians; whereas those affecting the

* Excepting Inclosures 9, 10, and 11.

Turkish "Chiftlicks" of Semikli, Ioba, Aghoryanni, Ambelliu, Hadji Omerli, and Catto Chakmut, fall in the proportion of two to one between the Christian tenants and the Mahommedan owners.

The largest and most serious fire, the one second in the list, broke out during a strong south-easterly wind within the confines of the Circassian village of Balabanli, in the district of Carditza.

The inhabitants of this place consisted formerly of seventy families, who, since the outbreak of hostilities, had abandoned their village; some ten or twelve Circassians, however, had returned to collect their harvest, when the fire broke out.

The question as to who were the authors of these divers incendiary acts still involves a considerable amount of uncertainty; the evidence is so conflicting that it is excessively difficult to get at the truth. The Turks attribute them without distinction to the Christians, but their versions scarcely tally with each other; and their assertions, given as though self-evident, are almost unattended by circumstantial details. They declare the object of the fires to be to throw discredit on the Mussulman population, and they attach the blame of them to insurgent Rayahs, to Greeks, and to brigands at mere random.

Some of the Christians, on the other hand, maintain that they were the acts of the "Nizams" and the Koniars of the districts; whilst others express their belief that they principally originated from accidental causes.

The excessive dryness of the fields, they added, owing to a long drought, was so great at the time that the embers of a simple cigarette were sufficient to set the whole country ablaze.

The following are the results of the inquiries I addressed to the owners or the agents of the estates that have suffered:—

"Bedjiler," an Albanian's estate, rented by a Greek named Sterio Papa Apostoli. His agent estimates the damage at 30*l.*, and attributes the fire to three Turks of Kodja-bashi.

"Velishoti," his Excellency Photiadi Bey's estate. His agent (a Greek) estimates the damage at 1,500*l.*, and attributes the fire to accident.

"Aghöryanni," Crown land, rented by Meleho Bey, the Mudir of Domoco. He estimates the damage at 50*l.*, and attributes the fire to brigands.

"Lefka," partly the property of a Greek named Douka Papas Oglou. He estimates the damage at 1,200*l.*, as the church, four houses, and some sheds were burnt down. He attributes the fire to the soldiers of the outpost.

I have since, however, been informed by trustworthy Greeks that this man had some connection with the insurrectionary committee; that he overstates the losses sustained at this village; and that, on the whole, his account is not to be relied upon.

"Daoukli," a Turk's estate, rented by a Greek named Douka. Although two of the villagers told me that this fire was simultaneously lit at three spots by the soldiers of the outpost, yet the proprietor himself (M. Douka) assured me that it only broke out through a mere accident. The fire was put out after burning a small piece of pasture.

"Alhani," the property of a Greek named Poulio Zarinaka. He estimates the damage at 200*l.*, and attributes the fire to foot soldiers returning from escorting the Mudir and Greek Consular Agent to the frontier.

My endeavours to obtain the evidence of the Turkish and Greek owners or their agents proved unsuccessful, owing to their absence or to some other causes.

With regard to the district of Carditza, I have to observe that the information I gathered there during my last stay is of a character to raise the suspicion that those fires were actuated by political motives, and that they were probably the deeds of designing parties from Greece. This reminds me of a favourite threat of the insurgents of the district of Armyro, who only a short time ago menaced to set ablaze the crops of those localities, so as it should not be asserted that the pacification of the province was attained by nothing more than a mere general amnesty.

As the whole of this year's harvest had been gathered in, the frequent fires that were raging in those plains and mountains during my last visit there were only doing harm to grazing grounds. Besides, most of them should no longer be ascribed to a spirit of malice, for in this country and at this season of the year it is customary for shepherds to burn down the withered herbs of their pasturage, that with the next rain the young fresh grass might spring up; and for ploughmen to destroy in the same way the weeds and shrubs of their fields, that the operation of tillage might be rendered easier.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY Z. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 3 in No. 432.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Larissa, September 30, 1878.*

FROM what I hear there seem to be signs of insubordination in some of the Albanian regiments in Thessaly and Epirus.

I am assured that the national and religious feelings of these troops are very much excited by passing events in Bosnia and north Albania; and that emissaries are among them trying to induce them to desert and join the Albanian League.

Persons who have recently come here from Epirus tell me that more than 130 men have deserted from the garrison in that province and gone to Prisrend to join the League; last week twenty men deserted from the Ghega battalion, which is stationed at Volo, and as further desertions were apprehended, the Commander-in-chief had these troops removed to Larissa, and replaced them by another battalion composed of Anatolian recruits.

The forces in Thessaly and Epirus include ten battalions, composed of "Tosca" Albanians, natives of Epirus; and seven battalions and two regiments of cavalry, composed of "Ghegas" from North Albania.

Nearly all these battalions have their full complement of 800 men each, they are officered by natives of these provinces, and are armed with Martini and Snider rifles, and have all seen active service.

It is therefore almost unnecessary to observe, after what has taken place in Bosnia and North Albania, that it will be very difficult to restrain these troops from actively supporting any organized combination of the Albanian Chiefs of Epirus against the annexation of their province to Greece.

I may add that the battalion which treacherously deserted Mehmet Ali Pasha at Janova was composed of "Tosca" Albanians from Epirus.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 4 in No. 432.

Acting Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Adrianople, October 2, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that General Todleben arrived here late this afternoon, coming from Livadia by way of Bourgas and Yamboli.

The advent of the Commander-in-chief has been looked forward to with the greatest interest by the Russian garrison and the civil population of Adrianople, for there is now no doubt whatever that the information regarding the object of the conference between General Todleben and Prince Dondoukoff, and of the visit of the former to Livadia, reported by me in my despatch of the 22nd ultimo, as derived from good sources, was in fact perfectly well founded. Officers of all ranks have within the last few days openly declared that the question of the evacuation of Adrianople within the term prescribed by the Treaty of Berlin, or of the Russian occupation being prolonged through the winter, would depend on the Emperor Alexander's decision, which would be made known on General Todleben's return here. In practical confirmation of this, all contracts negotiated by the Intendance here during the absence of the Commander-in-chief have been made conditional on the nature of the orders of which he would be the bearer.

General Todleben having only just arrived, there has scarcely been material time for the result to transpire as yet, but it will in all probability become known to-morrow. In the meanwhile I have to report the following facts which evidently bear on the subject in question.

Yesterday General Stalibin, Commander of the 9th Army Corps, assisted by a large staff of engineers and superior officers, was occupied the whole day in a careful inspection of the abandoned and half ruined Turkish works of defence around the town. Parties of engineer officers were left in each battery, where they have been busily engaged in surveying and drawing plans.

A circumstance has been reported to me this evening which, if it be confirmed, can hardly leave a doubt as to the true signification of this proceeding. Four guns of large calibre have, it is said, been mounted in the Yildirim battery, which is between the rivers

Toundja and Maritza, on the west side of Adrianople. This battery is, apparently, in the most commanding position of all, and the railway station is immediately under its fire. I cannot, however, absolutely vouch for the accuracy of this piece of information, although it was derived by my informant from a good Russian source. I hope to be able to report with more certainty regarding it to-morrow.

From the same source I learn that the Russian military authorities have (or at least had, pending the arrival of General Todleben) decided upon maintaining, "until further orders" the following strategic line toward the south. From Dédéagatch by Ushtup to Ouzoun-Kenpri, and thence through Lulé-Bourgas to Seraï. All the above places will be comprised within the Russian lines, and it is added that, according to the present arrangement, Seraï will be occupied during the winter by two divisions. Two other divisions will be quartered at Adrianople.

This statement seems to receive some colour from the fact which has been reported to me from other sources besides the one in question, that two Turkish Kaïmakams, accompanied by small squads of zaptiehs, having presented themselves a couple of days ago at Lulé-Bourgas and at Baba-Eski and called upon the Russian authorities to make over to them the civil government of those places, the Russian officers in command declined to do so on the ground that the Turkish credentials were not countersigned by the competent Russian military authorities. Both Kaïmakams, it is stated, were thereupon sent back to the Turkish lines.

Russian staff officers are heard to allege as a reason for the reluctance of the army to evacuate the rest of this province, that the Turkish troops everywhere tread energetically on the heels of the Russians, and, as they advance, immediately set about fortyfying each successive position; and that the Russians consequently fear that if the Turks are allowed to reoccupy Adrianople they might, by fortifying it, find themselves strong enough to renew the war, assume the offensive, and drive the Russian army up to the Balkans. This I have from a perfectly trustworthy source.

General Stalibin, in the course of a private conversation which I had with him the day before yesterday, told me that it was not yet decided whether the head-quarters of the army would be fixed here during the winter, but that, in the contrary case, it would be established at Slimnia (Sliven).

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

Inclosure 5 in No. 432.

Acting Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Adrianople, October 3, 1878.

Sir,

ALARMING rumours of massacres and disturbances in the districts which are being evacuated by the Russian troops have been in circulation during the last few days, but I am happy to be able to state that on inquiry those rumours have proved to be in almost every case either greatly exaggerated or wholly without foundation. The Russian authorities do not appear to be at any pains to dispel such false reports, and although the state of things thus shadowed forth by terrified imaginations or through designing agencies is no other than might have been expected as the fruit of Russian rule in this province it has not upon the whole been realized, so far, to the extent that might have been anticipated.

The disquieting statements in question have obtained currency, I believe, only among the Christian population. Christians are, therefore, of course the victims, and Mussulmans the perpetrators of these imaginary misdeeds. Such misdeeds, however, as are known to have been really committed prove to be of the opposite character.

About a week ago four Turkish camel-drivers who were conveying grain for a foreign merchant here, disappeared on their way from Ouzoun-Kenpri to Malgara. No further news of them has been obtained, and they are supposed to have been murdered. On the day when information of this occurrence was brought here a Russian officer coming from the same quarter gave out that he had seen over 400 dead bodies on the road. This has turned out to be a pure invention.

Other reports of the same kind have been spread from day to day, and have proved to be equally false.

The following somewhat specific statement may perhaps be better founded:—

At Enos, it is stated, upon the withdrawal of the Russian troops, four Turks and a Greek gendarme were killed. At Ferreljik, near Dédéagatch, eight Christians are said to have been murdered. Your Excellency will probably have received from the Vice Consuls at Enos and at Dédeagatch information regarding these occurrences, if there is any truth in what is said.

About 100 families, chiefly Greek, arrived here by rail on the 30th ultimo, coming from Buyuk-Tchekmedjé, Derkos, Tchataddja, and other places near Constantinople. Fear was the motive of this emigration; but the fugitives admitted that it was not fear caused by anything that had happened, but apprehension of what might happen. It is evident, therefore, that the rumour mentioned in the "Phare du Bosphore" of that day (the 30th ultimo) as to sixty persons having been massacred in the neighbourhood of Tchataldja is unfounded. A false report of the same kind obtained currency here with regard to San Stefano, where six persons were said to have been killed on the withdrawal of the Russians. The fugitives above mentioned have been sent back by the authorities here, who discourage the emigration northwards of Greeks and Bulgarians alike.

In the same alarmist spirit that prompted the fables just related the simple refusal of the Russian military authorities to receive the Turkish Kaïmakams sent to take over the administration of Lulé-Bourgas and Baba-Eski, was magnified here into an armed rising of the Christian population and the violent ejection of the Ottoman officials from those places.

General Stalibin informed me the other day that seventeen Turks had lately been massacred by the Greeks of two villages (whose names he could not recall) near Demotica. He added that he had in consequence ordered the villages in question to be fined 1,500 roubles, which amount was to be given to the families of the murdered men. On the other hand, some Turkish peasants from the neighbourhood of Demotica, who came here on the following day with a complaint of a serious outrage committed at their village, assured me that the only late occurrence of the kind in that part of the country was the murder of two Turks of Beykoï by some Greeks from Sofulu, two or three weeks ago. As these Turkish informants could have no object in concealing the facts from me, were they true, it is difficult to account for the contradiction.

I now come to the case of these same peasants, as related by them. Their native place, Yel-Bourgas, is a hamlet two and a-half hours from Demotica. During the night of the 30th ultimo a band of eight or ten Greeks from the latter place collected at the shop of a grocer, also a Greek, and the only Christian inhabitant of Yel-Bourgas. At daybreak on the following morning three of the band broke into the house of one Emin Aga, who previously to the Russian occupation was in good circumstances, but who, like all his co-religionists in these parts, is now stripped of everything. They demanded 100 Turkish pounds from him, and wounded him badly with their yatagans on the head, neck, and sides. They, moreover treated in a similar manner Emin Aga's wife, and another woman, a neighbour, who came in to see what was the matter. Some of the villagers having succeeded in giving timely notice to a Cossack detachment in the neighbourhood, the miscreants were arrested. The remainder of the band, who had busied themselves meanwhile in collecting the few cattle which had been left to the Turks of Yel-Bourgas, effected their escape, not, however, until they also wounded an old Turk who, disregarding their orders to the inhabitants to keep within doors, had ventured into the street. The captured men proved to be notoriously bad characters. These and their victims have been brought here; the former are in prison, and the latter lie at the hospital.

The above occurrence, it will be seen, does not differ from similar ones which have been continually taking place during the Russian occupation. In the meanwhile General Stalibin informs me that, with the view of preventing disorders, General Skobeleff, who commands the troops now evacuating the country, has been instructed not to withdraw from any district before the arrival of a Turkish force sufficient to maintain the public peace.

There seems reason to hope that, if this obviously wise precaution is attended to, and proper vigilance be shown on both sides, the further transfer of authority in this province will be effected without material loss of life or property.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

Inclosure 6 in No. 432.

Acting Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Confidential.)

Adrianople, October 3, 1878.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch Confidential of yesterday's date, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that it has been stated here, on good authority, that the decision, of which General Todleben is the bearer, as to the evacuation or a prolonged occupation of Adrianople, will not be formally made known to the army until the Commander-in-chief shall have had time to settle down in his new quarters, that is, as it is explained, "in another day or two."

Meanwhile, it seems to be already an understood thing in military circles here that the latter course has been determined upon; nor do the military preparations which are being made appear capable of any other explanation.

The troops have been employed the whole of to-day in repairing the batteries around Adrianople, and I have very reliable information, originally derived from a Staff Colonel, to-day, that the whole of the fortifications are to be put in a complete state of defence as soon as possible.

Among numerous other signs pointing in the same direction, a contract has, I learn, been signed here, within the last two or three days, for supplies of beef for two whole army corps during five and a-half months. I have also heard, from a person interested, that another contract is in treaty for 50,000 pouds (about 3,000,000 lbs.) of hay to be supplied to the Cossack artillery alone.

I may here explain that Ushtup, or, more properly, Ishtip, mentioned in my despatch above referred to as one of the places through which the new Russian line of occupation will be drawn, and which is not indicated on Kiepert's map, is, I learn, a Turkish village on the hills two hours west of Sofulu (one of the stations on the Dédéagatch railway), and six hours south-west of Demotica.

The military movements now in progress in that quarter combine, with obvious considerations, to make it probable that Dédéagatch and the district north of it will be evacuated, and that Ishtip is the furthest point that will really be held to the south.

The Austrian Consul here informs me that Russian troops are reported to be concentrating towards Kustendil and other places leading into Macedonia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

Inclosure 7 in No. 432.

Acting Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Adrianople, October 5, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the Consular Body have paid to-day their first official visits to General Todleben.

I was very courteously received by the Commander-in-chief, whom I happened to find alone, and had a long interview with his Excellency.

On the subject of the rumoured massacres in the districts now being evacuated, the General expressed himself in a sense confirmatory of the result of my own inquiries. He said that, so far as he knew, except in the instances of Rodosto and Silivria, no serious occurrences of the kind had taken place. At the latter place, however, he said, no less than twenty persons had been killed or wounded. He added that a panic had nevertheless seized the Christian population, who were flying to Adrianople in thousands both by rail and by road, and whose fears there was no reasoning with, for that on being told that no shelter or means of subsistence could be provided for them within the Russian lines, they replied that they preferred to die of cold and hunger to being massacred or "hanged" by the Turks, which would, they said, be their inevitable fate if they remained behind.

General Todleben declared that he was in a great state of perplexity in consequence of this stampede, which there was no means of checking. He said that, in his opinion, the most advisable course to take would be to accept these Christian fugitives, and to send to the villages abandoned by them the Turkish refugees still remaining here. This arrangement, I may observe, could hardly be carried out to the advantage of the latter if it be true, as I have just been informed is the case, that many of the Christians burn the houses which they abandon. Although the movement will no doubt, if it continues, become embarrassing, it does not appear so far to have attained formidable proportions. About 600 fugitives arrived yesterday by rail, and an unknown but very considerable number by road. I am informed by eye-witnesses that part, at least, of these latter were escorted by Cossacks.

General Todleben also mentioned that "cart-loads" of petitions were coming in from the Christians in all parts of the country imploring the Russian troops to remain.

The Commander-in-chief did not let fall any hint as to evacuating or prolonging the occupation of Adrianople beyond what may be gathered from the fact that he laid some stress upon his statement as to the petitions received in the latter sense, and beyond what may be inferred from the measure he advocated with regard to the Christian fugitives, that is, their exchanging quarters with the Turkish refugees here.

Nothing decisive has transpired on this question one way or the other since my my despatch of the 3rd instant.

As against the numerous indications of an intention to winter at Adrianople, the only sign at present which can be construed to mean approaching departure is the announcement of a sale of horses to take place to-morrow, and this again may very possibly prove to be a sale of the same kind as took place some weeks ago, and at which only unserviceable animals and stores were disposed of.

The reparation of the defensive works of Adrianople reported in my above-mentioned despatch does not appear to be, so far, of a general character, but it is certain that two or three of the principal batteries are now occupied by troops, who do not allow access to them. The rest of the fortifications remain deserted since the visit of inspection by General Stalibin and his staff the other day.

I am assured that the Ottoman authorities were allowed to install themselves at Lulé-Bourgas yesterday, and that that place will be occupied this evening by Turkish troops. If this is true, it of course disposes of the strategic line passing through Lulé-Bourgas, which I was informed had been provisionally resolved upon.

It appears that there was in reality some foundation for the report of an anti-Turkish demonstration at Lulé-Bourgas referred to in my despatch of the 3rd instant. The leader of the movement was one Nicola Moska, a Bulgarian, lately Russian sub-Governor *ad interim* of Baba-Eski.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

Inclosure 8 in No. 432.

Acting Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Adrianople, October 6, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that a delegation sent here by the (Greek) inhabitants of Orlukioi was received yesterday afternoon by General Lipinsky. The Delegates represented that if this part of the country is to be reoccupied by the Turks, and the people of Orlukioi, under those circumstances, were to remain at their village, they would inevitably be massacred by the neighbouring insurgents, whose enmity they had incurred. They declared, therefore, that they must, in such case, abandon their homes, and follow the Russian army.

I learn from a perfectly trustworthy person, who had his information direct from one of the delegates, that General Lipinsky, in reply, told them to make their minds easy, for that the Russian troops would remain at Dédéagatch, Adrianople, and Kirk-Kilissa. No limits of time, so far as I can ascertain, were specified; but it is generally understood that the occupation of Adrianople is meant to be prolonged indefinitely. The most moderate term spoken of in military circles is one year.

The statement made to my informant by the man from Orlukioi appears to be borne out by the fact that the delegates, who, on their arrival here, were in a great state of trepidation, are now reassured.

The expected official announcement to the troops of the Emperor's decision by General Todleben has, however, not yet been made.

It is stated that a concentration of troops is taking place opposite Mangouf, an insurgent position on the right bank of the Ardu.

The horses offered for sale to-day have proved, as I anticipated would be the case, only refuse animals, and they scarcely found any buyers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

has existed that the delivery of the ceded territory to Montenegro has been suspended, a most favourable opportunity is now afforded to the Porte for reassuming an authority which has been seriously compromised, if not entirely lost, by the action during the past few months of its provincial functionaries.

It is absolutely necessary that a show of power should be made by the Government to dispel the illusion which had been fostered for external political purposes, and which is suddenly showing signs of taking root as a fact, that the Sultan's authority is no longer acknowledged in Albania.

If Hussein Pasha, by his wire-pulling of the National League and other similar expedients, is allowed to terrorize the Porte into inaction for a few months longer, or tempts it into a step which will produce a somewhat similar exhibition of weakness to the Jacova tragedy, the expression "National" will receive a more definite meaning, and the present wild talk of the Albanians about a separate existence and the beauties of a Republican form of Government may very possibly lead to the severance of the country from the Sultan's dominions, if not in annexation to some more powerful State.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 434.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 77. Political.) [B.B.]
My Lord, *Scutari, October 7, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report that on the 29th ultimo, the second day of the Feast of Beiram, the President and the Treasurer of the Municipal Council of Cavaja, Hassan Bey Bakoli and Salih Effendi, were shot dead by a party of seven men, who waylaid them as they were coming out of their official residence.

Cavaja is the chief town in the district in which the port of Durazzo is situated, and its inhabitants have the reputation of being exceptionally lawless and turbulent.

I am assured that the two murdered men have no better character than the rest of their fellow-townsmen, and that their death is only of interest as showing the rapid decline of the awe felt for persons in Government employ.

Hussein Pasha has sent a police officer and three companies of soldiers from this to Cavaja, to endeavour to bring the murderers to justice.

Considerable employment could be found in Scutari itself for the police if it was thought at all necessary to attempt to arrest those who commit murders in its streets.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 435.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 68. Political.)
My Lord, *Bosna-Serai, October 7, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Visegrad was occupied by the Austrian troops, without fighting, on the 4th instant. The Mussulman insurgents, seeing they were in danger of being surrounded, had taken flight during the night in the direction of Priboj, abandoning cannon, ammunition, tents, and provisions. The same day Gorazda and Cajnica were also occupied without opposition, and probably ere this Foca is likewise in the hands of the Austrians, as no resistance was anticipated there. The Austrian troops have also now occupied Konjica and the Serajevo-Mostar road, and Klobuk having been taken by General Jovanovic on the 28th ultimo, the occupation of Bosnia and the Herzegovina by the Austrian forces may be considered as accomplished.

The population, both Christian and Moslem, appear to have been disarmed everywhere without difficulty, and the few remaining bands of insurgents will probably disperse on the approach of winter.

Hadji Loyo, who played such a leading part at the commencement of the insur-

rection, was arrested on the 2nd instant near Rogatica, and was brought to Serajevo on the 5th. He is suffering still from the wound in his foot and from fever, but every effort is being made to prolong his life, as it is thought that valuable information may be obtained from him regarding the origin and the promoters of the anti-Austrian movement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 436.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 189. Political.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, October 10, 1878.*

IT appears that it has been determined to take measures to enable Russia to obtain possession of the Bessarabian districts on Sunday next, the $\frac{14}{26}$th instant.

Commissioners have been appointed on both sides, and these will most probably effect the regular transfer on that day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 437.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 190. Political.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, October 12, 1878.*

THE Senate and Chamber of Deputies of Roumania have spent the entire week in discussing in secret and public sittings the course to be followed for the purpose of carrying out the decisions of the Congress of Berlin as regards this country.

All parties are agreed that submission to the determinations adopted by the collective Powers is inevitable; but the Opposition, though it is not largely represented by actual votes in either Chamber, has adopted the following as its tactics on this occasion.

All the organs of the press of the Opposition assert that the policy of the present Ministers has been such as to deserve blame, and they no longer possess the confidence of the country, that therefore an appeal to the decision of the electors is indispensable.

Some of the adherents of the Government appear inclined to this view, in so far as they are advocates of a dissolution, but it must be observed that these belong mostly to those parts of the country where the feelings on the Jewish question are the strongest, and where it is feared that a prolonged agitation of that much-vexed question may lead to disturbances.

By Article 7 of the present Constitution only those strangers who profess the Christian religion can become Roumanian citizens.

By a strange anomaly all Jews, even though themselves and their parents were actually born in Roumania, continue in the eyes of the law to be considered as non-Roumanians or aliens.

By the Constitution no changes in it can be effected unless a Special Assembly, elected *ad hoc*, has pronounced upon such alteration after it has been declared necessary to do so in several consecutive resolutions in an Ordinary Assembly.

The removal of religious disabilities will, therefore, necessitate, sooner or later, dissolution and the convention of a Special Assembly *ad hoc*, to adapt Article 8 of the Constitution to the requirements of Article XLIV of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 438.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 17.)

(No. 191. Political.)

Bucharest, October 12, 1878.

My Lord,

THE question of the removal of religious disabilities in Roumania, in accordance with Article XLIV of the Treaty of Berlin, will, no doubt, be the absorbing topic of public interest here during the next few months, and may possibly lead in some districts in Moldavia to a dangerous agitation.

It must be borne in mind that all persons professing the Jewish religion are considered as aliens by the laws of this country, and that a large portion of them invoke their foreign nationality as a title to exemption from military service.

The total number of persons of the Jewish creed was estimated a few years ago at 400,000, but it is stated that many others have come over here lately from Galicia and Russia.

The question arises, how many of the above number can claim to be allowed to enjoy Roumanian nationality, if those are only admitted whose parents were born in the country, and who are likewise natives of the same land and speak its language; it is believed that their number will not exceed 20,000. All the others will have to content themselves with such rights as are granted to Christians of the same nationality as that to which they claim to belong.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 439.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 17.)

(No. 193. Political.)

Bucharest, October 13, 1878.

My Lord,

BOTH the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies have concluded their debates on the subject of the Treaty of Berlin, and have adopted resolutions authorizing the Government of this country to conform to the collective decisions of the Great Powers.

The Senate adopted the resolution, of which I have the honour to inclose a French translation, by forty-eight votes against eight.

The Chamber of Deputies passed the following vote late on Saturday night, the 12th instant, by eighty-two votes against twenty-six, viz.:—

"Compelled to give way to the decisions of the Powers, for the purpose of consolidating peace, the Chamber authorizes the Government to conform to the collective will of Europe, to withdraw all civil and military authorities from Bessarabia, and to take possession of the Dobrudscha and of the delta of the Danube, the other questions to be solved in a Constitutional way."

The remaining questions are only those connected with the removal of religious disabilities, and for which the calling of special Chambers, elected *ad hoc*, if necessary, which is left to the Government to carry out.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 439.

Extract from "L'Orient" of October 11, 1878.

LES deux Chambres ont tenu séance hier.

Au Sénat on a donné lecture du projet de résolutions que la Commission élue dans la précédente séance avait été chargée de rédiger, relativement aux clauses du Traité de Berlin concernant la Roumanie.

Voici ce projet:—

"Votre Commission a étudié la correspondance diplomatique relative au Traité de Berlin du 13 Juillet, 1878: elle a vu à regret que les Puissances Européennes, par un vote unanime et dans l'intérêt de la paix générale, ont infligé à la Roumanie de douloureux sacrifices.

"Pourtant, votre Commission propose que le Gouvernement soit autorisé à se conformer à ce sujet au Traité de Berlin; elle est encore d'avis que le Gouvernement prenne possession de la Dobroudja et en dirige l'administration par des réglements d'administration publique, jusqu'à la convocation d'une Assemblée constituante.

"La Commission engage enfin le Gouvernement à convoquer une Assemblée constituante, avant que la Session ordinaire, dont la durée est de trois mois, ait pris fin, en se conformant en cela à l'Article 129 de la Constitution. La constituante devra non-seulement donner une solution définitive à la question de la Dobroudja, mais aussi résoudre les autres questions soulevées par le Traité de Berlin.

"Votre Commission vous prie d'approuver ces résolutions."

Le Gouvernement a accepté ce projet et demain la Chambre des Deputés doit entendre lecture d'un projet de résolutions en tout identique à celui-ci.

No. 440.

Colonel Home, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 17.)

(No. 16.)

Royal Hotel, Pera, October 10, 1878.

My Lord,

I REGRET to inform your Lordship that as yet no progress whatever has been made in the delimitation of the frontiers of Bulgaria. Despite the exertions of Sir Henry Layard, Her Majesty's Ambassador, and I believe similar exertions on the part of the Ambassadors representing the other Great Powers signatory of the Treaty of Berlin, no official action has been taken by the Turkish Government as regards appointing a Commissioner, or naming a place and date for the assembly of the Commission. My German colleague, Colonel von Scherff, informed me last night that he had written to his Government pointing out that he was simply wasting his time here, and that in the pecuniary interests of his country he begged to be recalled.

I believe the sole reason for the delay is the fatal system of procrastination which appears to be inherent in all Turkish arrangements.

In the interests of Turkey herself, I deeply regret the delay that has taken place. I feel that it has rendered my labours far more onerous than they otherwise would be.

The Commissioners have become irritated at a delay which they conceive to be a slight put on themselves and the Governments they represent.

Referring to that portion of your Lordship's despatch No. 2, Confidential, dated Foreign Office, the 9th September, 1878, where a possible reduction of the staff at my disposal is spoken of, I have this day informed you by telegram that none of the Commissioners except myself are provided either with the instruments or the staff requisite for undertaking a survey.

They inform me that the Governments they represent consider that the survey and the fixation of the boundary marks should be made in the case of the Dobrudscha by the Roumanians and Bulgarians, and in the case of the Balkan frontier by the Bulgarians and Turks.

As regards the latter frontier, the Russian Commissioner states that in the spring the Topographical Department of the Russian army will have completed a survey of the Balkan. This survey, after verification, may be adopted by the Commission, and may afford the data to determine the military frontier; but whether the Russians produce a map, or whether they do not, a surveying staff is essential for the Balkan frontier; in the former case to verify the map, in the latter to make one.

I frankly confess that I am unable to give a military opinion of any value on the difficult points connected with the defence of the Balkan without a careful study, not only of the ground, but also of a map superior to those now available. As regards the Dobrudscha frontier, there are no military questions involved; and as the Governments of the Great Powers signatory of the Treaty of Berlin are not prepared to undertake a survey, it is questionable whether the expense incident on such a survey should be undertaken by England alone.

Should your Lordship decide that no survey is requisite, a reduction of the staff now here may be made. (*Vide* despatch No. 17.)

I find my fellow Commissioners exceedingly anxious to hurry through their work; and, so far as I can gather from the non-official meetings that have taken place, none of

them are acquainted with the processes by which hitherto boundaries (for example, that between Russia and Moldavia in 1856-57) have been delimitated.

For the Commission to simply fix two points—one on the Black Sea near Mangalia, and the other on the Danube near Silistria—and ride over the fifty-two miles between these points, leaving the Roumanians and Bulgarians to settle the remainder of the boundary between them, would leave an endless crop of disputes open between the Bulgarians (that is to say, the Russians) on the one side, and the Roumanians on the other, and thereby entirely defeat the objects for which the Commission has been appointed.

Yet such is the system proposed by the German Commissioner and warmly supported by the Russian, the great point of contention, whether the line between the Black Sea and the Danube is to be a practically straight line, or one run so as to embrace in Bulgaria, the large Bulgarian population said to exist near Kuzgun, being left to the decision not of a European Commission but of the Russians (Bulgarians) and Roumanians. As the surveying party is now here, and as a very considerable expense has been already incurred in bringing them here, I venture to submit, for your Lordship's approval, that they should not be recalled, but that the Roumanian Government be called on to aid in the surveying operations, and that the work be completed in this way.

I am induced to submit this proposal to your Lordship, because the proposed frontier between Bulgaria and Roumania is essentially an arbitrary frontier, dependent on no natural features whatever, and, consequently, is capable of no verbal description. Should it not be properly surveyed and marked out now disputes will infallibly occur, which will necessitate the dispatch of another Commission, and a consequent expenditure greatly in excess of what is now requisite to complete the work properly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. HOME.

No. 441.

Colonel Home, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 17.)

(No. 17.)

Royal Hotel, Pera, October 10, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to reply to your Lordship's despatch No. 3, dated the 9th September, 1878, the receipt of which I acknowledged in my despatch No. 3 of the 21st September.

On my arrival in Constantinople it became my duty to consider how the instructions your Lordship had given me could be best carried out. I addressed, on the 22nd September, a letter to his Excellency Her Majesty's Ambassador covering a Memorandum, copy inclosed; in this Memorandum I pointed out (paragraphs 1 and 2) the short time available for work this season, and give a calculation of the number of days that then remained for the Commission to carry out its duties. Eighteen days have now elapsed, during which no progress whatever has been made; even should the Commission be constituted immediately, I feel sure that at least ten days must elapse before it could leave Constantinople. There are many points on which I foresee my Russian colleague will raise difficulties on, and the preliminary arrangements, such as the purchase of tents, &c., must be made.

Assuming that your Lordship sanctions the survey of the Dobrudscha boundary by the staff at my disposal and the Roumanians, as proposed in my despatch No. 16 of this day's date, every effort will be used to complete the work this winter, but I have very grave doubts whether it will be possible to do so before the cold weather renders the use of surveying instruments and living in tents impossible.

It therefore becomes requisite for me, in accordance with your Lordship's orders, to suggest, for your consideration, the best means of employing the officers during the winter.

One officer and two draftsmen might be employed in Constantinople in perfecting the work executed in the field, and in taking charge of the instruments, tents, &c.

The remainder, including myself, are available for such duty as we may be directed to perform. The most economical course would undoubtedly be for us to return to England, resuming our military duties until the end of April, or beginning of May, when we could again come out here to complete the boundaries. As, however, the travelling expenses of the whole party from London to the East have been already incurred, I venture to submit that three officers and two soldiers should be employed in the

reconnaissance of that portion of the country extending from Alexandretta to the Euphrates and Tigris, and as far north as Karput, if the weather will admit of this latter. Your Lordship, in the spring of this year, obtained some very valuable reports on the Syrian ports, and what I now propose is the extension of these reports towards the eastward.

As my salary is the highest, I should propose myself to return to England, leaving instructions with the other officers as to the reconnaissance of the country indicated.

Should your Lordship determine to bring the whole party, with one exception, to England, I should consider that we might leave this place about the 15th or 20th November. Should you, on the other hand, approve of the last proposition in this letter, the same date would fix my return to England and the departure of the other officers for Syria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. HOME.

Inclosure in No. 441.

Memorandum.

1. THE instructions I have received from the Marquis of Salisbury (copy attached) direct me to endeavour to complete the boundary between the Dobrudscha and Bulgaria this season.

As surveying operations are very difficult if not quite impossible after the 10th November, I am directed to report whether I can suggest any means of usefully employing the staff at my disposal during the winter; or whether the greater portion of that staff, including myself, should not return to England in November, coming out to Turkey in the spring, when surveying operations again become possible.

2. This is the 22nd September. There are, therefore, forty-nine working days, including Sundays, available. Of these, probably fourteen will be wet. The preliminary arrangements of the Commission will probably take ten days. Travelling to Silistria will probably take eight days, leaving seventeen clear days available for the delimitation of a frontier fifty-three miles in length, and containing one disputed point, viz., the exact position where the boundary line begins on the Danube, east of Silistria.

3. Under such circumstances, it is manifest that no time can be lost, and that the necessity of assembling the Commission is of a pressing nature.

4. I have the honour, therefore, to submit to his Excellency Her Majesty's Ambassador the desirability of calling on the Sublime Porte to issue to the various Representatives of the Great Powers a Circular letter, informing them that it has nominated an officer to take part in the deliberations of the Commission, naming that officer, and fixing a date and place for the first meeting of the Commission.

5. I have ascertained from my Austrian colleague, Lieutenant-Colonel Baron de Ripp, that such a mode of procedure would meet with the warmest support from Count Zichy, who is especially anxious that the Commission should begin its labours as soon as possible.

6. Should his Excellency approve of the course indicated being pursued, I venture to request that he will be kind enough to direct that the requisite application be made to the Sublime Porte.

7. I further venture to request his Excellency's instructions as to whether he considers the officer representing the Turkish Government should preside?

Whether he considers the Secretary of the Commission should be a French or an English officer?

8. In case of differences of opinion on the Commission, the French Government and our own have suggested, that the opinion of the majority should decide.

This the Russian Government has refused to accede to, and it has been settled that all such disputed points should be referred to the Ambassadors at Constantinople of the Powers signatory of the Treaty of Berlin.

I venture to request that his Excellency will instruct me: that when such disputed points are forwarded I shall in every case report the names of the majority of the members of the Commission, either for or against the proposal.

9. I have ascertained that the Austrian Representative is fully prepared to support the views which I understand it to be the desire of Her Majesty's Government to pervade the delimitation of the frontiers of Bulgaria.

I am given to understand that the French Representative will equally support those views.

Hence it is reasonable to suppose that on every point we will have a majority; and the fact that this majority exists, and that his Excellency is aware of the names of the officers composing it will, I respectfully submit, be of some use to him in finally arranging the matter in concert with the other Ambassadors at Constantinople.

(Signed) R. HOME, *Colonel, R.E.*

September 22, 1878.

No. 442.

Colonel Home, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 18.)

My Lord, *Royal Hotel, Pera, October* 10, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the substance of a telegram, in cypher, which I had this day the honour to address to your Lordship.

I am, &c.

(Signed) R. HOME.

Inclosure in No. 442.

Substance of Telegram from Colonel Home to the Marquis of Salisbury, dated October 10, 1878.

BOUNDARY Commission not at present constituted, as the Turkish Commissioner has not been officially nominated. The rest of the Commission has met thrice unofficially.

With reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 2, the other European Powers are represented by only two officers, one for Bulgaria and the other for Roumelia. The Commissioners have given me to understand that they are not prepared to make a detailed survey, as they have no staff for the purpose. Their Governments consider that the survey should be carried out by the countries between which the frontier is delimitated. The Russian Commissioner tells me that by the spring their topographical staff will have completed the map of the Balkans, but in any case it would have to be carefully verified.

With regard to the Dobrudscha, where I hope the Commission will commence its work, am I to survey the boundary? I do not see how it is possible to determine a boundary between two independent States, unless a survey be made and boundary marks fixed. If your Lordship decides that a survey by us is unnecessary, the staff under my orders might be reduced, but the Roumanian authorities should be communicated with at once to prepare to survey the ground at the time the Commission determines the boundary. The Turks have no interest in this frontier.

I foresee endless difficulties, and I am of opinion that the work of the Commission will be entirely useless should no survey be made. If your Lordship decides that my staff are not to survey, shall I communicate with the Consul-General at Bucharest as to the action of the Roumanian Government? The Commissioners are bent upon performing their duties in a very perfunctory manner. A despatch on this subject has been sent by messenger.

No. 443.

Sir L. Simmons to Mr. Lister.—(Received October 17.)

(Confidential.)

Sir, *War Office, October* 16, 1878.

IN compliance with Lord Salisbury's request, communicated to me by Mr. Sanderson, I have the honour to inclose a Memorandum on Colonel Home's telegram of the 10th instant, relative to Turkey.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. L. A. SIMMONS.

Inclosure in No. 443.

Memorandum on Colonel Home's Telegram of October 10, 1878, *by General Sir L. Simmons.*

(Confidential.)

COLONEL HOME'S telegram of the 10th instant having been referred to me by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, I have the honour to report as follows:—

I entirely concur in the opinion of Colonel Home, that a boundary between two contiguous States cannot be determined in a manner which shall prevent future disputes unless a survey be made and boundary marks be fixed; but, at the same time, there can be no doubt that the propositions of the Commissioners that the surveys of boundaries should be made by the Governments of the countries between which they run, is reasonable and just, and that those countries should bear the expenditure incurred in making them.

This was the course pursued both on the north-western frontier of the United States and on the boundary across the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific, when Her Majesty's Government and that of the United States sent officers, who conjointly surveyed these boundaries.

In the case of the Turco-Persian boundary, a conjoint survey was undertaken and carried out by two friendly Powers, Great Britain and Russia, instead of by the coterminous States, who were not in a position to make the surveys.

In these cases the surveys were necessary, in consequence of there being no maps in existence sufficiently accurate upon which to lay down the boundaries.

In the case of the Turco-Russian boundary in Asia, a different course was pursued. The Russian Commissioner produced a survey of a belt of land extending a few versts on each side of the boundary, including all the localities in dispute, which the Commission, consisting of Representatives of the Governments of Great Britain, France, Russia, and Turkey, accepted as a basis upon which to lay down the boundary, subject to verification by the Commission.

This verification was carried out, with the unanimous consent of the Commission, entirely by British officers, who were accompanied by Russian and Turkish officers, as Representatives of the two Governments more directly interested, when the work throughout was found to be very accurate; and the Commissioners were thus enabled, without actually inspecting every part of the line in person, to complete their work in one season.

Their Report having been made upon these maps, the various Governments interested agreed to the boundary as laid down by them; and, in the following season, marks were fixed and the boundary was finally settled, no dispute having since arisen upon it.

In the case of Bulgaria, it is not known that any surveys are extant of sufficient accuracy to enable the Commissioners to proceed with their work, but, as Colonel Home reports that the Russians say that by the spring they will have a complete map of the Balkan, I should recommend that this map should be accepted as a basis on which the Commission may proceed, subject to verification by the Commission themselves.

I do not think, however, that the Russian Commissioners should be asked, or expected, to furnish a complete map of the whole district, but only of a belt of land along the frontier sufficient to enable the Commission to lay down the boundary in a manner which shall prevent further disputes.

As regards the northern boundary of Bulgaria from the Black Sea to the Danube, where that province adjoins Roumania, it does not appear from Colonel Home's Report that the Russians have made a survey. It is therefore desirable that the Commissioners should ascertain whether they or the Roumanian Government are prepared to place a map before the Commission upon which the new boundary may be described, and, if not, that the Commission should take steps to procure a map, by requesting the existing Governments of Roumania and Bulgaria to prepare one with as little delay as possible, subject, of course, to subsequent verification by the Commission.

The making of accurate maps of such extent as to comprise the whole of the boundaries of Bulgaria is an operation for which the staff sent out with Colonel Home* is altogether inadequate if the survey is to be made within a limited time; but as the boundary, from the imperfection of the maps upon which it was described at Berlin, may involve several points of dispute, I conceive that it is essential, with a view to the work of verification being completed with rapidity, that a good working efficient staff

* Colonel Home, Captain Ardagh, Captain Clarke, and Captain Murray.

should be maintained by Colonel Home, and I should doubt whether it can be reduced below its present number.

If the views expressed above as to the adoption of the Russian surveys be concurred in by the Secretary of State, I should suggest that they should be communicated to Colonel Home, who would then be able to judge whether his staff can be reduced without risk of delay in the work they have to perform.

I would observe that it appears to me essential that the boundaries should be agreed to and fixed with as little delay as possible, so as to guard against the disputes which must otherwise constantly arise between the frontier guards, and from encroachments of the inhabitants on either side.

Previous to the delimitation of the Turco-Russian boundary in Asia such difficulties were of constant occurrence, and there can be no doubt that every point left undecided may at any time give rise to complications which may become serious, and are only to be avoided by an accurate definition of the boundaries, and by having them carefully marked.

As regards the boundary of Eastern Roumelia, where that province does not adjoin Bulgaria, the surveys, according to the principle enunciated by the Commissioners, "should be made by the countries between which the frontier is delimitated," which, it is to be observed in this case, both form part of the Turkish Empire; the proper party, therefore, to make the survey is the Turkish Government.

But I presume that Turkey cannot undertake these surveys during the Russian occupation, and, therefore, there may be considerable delay unless the Russians will furnish the requisite maps; and probably even the Russians, in the present disturbed state of the Rhodope district, may find considerable difficulty in making them or a part of them.

I would suggest, therefore, that inquiry should be made as to whether the Russians or Turks can furnish the required maps for the southern frontier of Eastern Roumelia from the Black Sea to where it joins Bulgaria, and, if they cannot do so, whether the Commission should not make provision for the survey, either by delegating the duty to the Turks or to some one of the neutral Powers, in which case I would strongly urge, on military grounds, that Her Majesty's Government should undertake it, if it can be so arranged, because, in any future wars, a thorough knowledge of the country through which the boundary runs will be of the greatest value to the British Government, who, in order to act up to the guarantees that have been undertaken in Asia Minor, under the Treaty of the 4th June, must have an absolute security that Russia shall not advance through the country south of the Balkans, so as to threaten the Straits of the Dardanelles and Bosphorus, and who, therefore, should consider and advise as to the means of preventing such an advance.

From my knowledge of the Turks, I should doubt whether they are capable of making the required surveys.

Another method by which they could be made would be by the Turks undertaking the work, and employing strangers to do it for them, the safety of the surveying parties being guaranteed by Russian or Turkish troops, according as their work lay through territory occupied by one army or the other.

The season, however, is so late, that if the necessary maps have not been made, it will be impossible to complete them before the date at which the Russian occupation is to cease.

Meanwhile provisional boundaries might be established on the ground by the Commission to prevent disputes, and thus time be gained for their subsequent rectification and final determination by the International Commission and the Governments they represent.

(Signed) J. L. A. SIMMONS.

October 16, 1878.

No. 444.

Count Münster to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 17.)

(Translation.)
German Embassy, October 14, 1878.

My Lord,

I DO myself the honour of informing your Excellency, by direction of the Imperial Government, that it has nominated Colonel von Scherff and Captain von Krahmer, of the Grand General Staff, to take part in the Bulgarian East Roumelian Boundary Regulating Commission; Major von Alten, of the Grand General Staff, to take part in the Servian Boundary Regulating Commission; and Captain Testa, at present entrusted with the administration of the Imperial Consulate at Ragusa, to take part in the Montenegrin Delimitation Commission.

Herr Brüning, Imperial Consul at Beyrout, is in prospect as German member of the Consular Commission provided in Article VI of the Berlin Treaty.

With, &c.
(Signed) MÜNSTER.

No. 445.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 921.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 17, 1878.

SULTAN informed me yesterday that he was about to satisfy me on two questions of reforms and return of the Declaration.

No. 446.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 922.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 17, 1878.

I WAS able to inform yesterday the Sultan and Grand Vizier that final arrangement had been come to between Moukhtar Pasha and Cretan Delegates which now only require their sanction.

They promised to give it, and were good enough to attribute this happy result to my mediation.

They subsequently received telegram confirming information.

No. 447.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 923.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 17, 1878.

ARCHBISHOP of Salonica was last night elected Greek Patriarch. He is very anti-Russian, and it is said that Russian Embassy did its utmost to prevent his election. He is considered a great intrigner in Greek interests.

No. 448.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 924.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 17, 1878.

AUSTRIAN Ambassador has communicated to Porte telegram from Count Andrassy of the 14th instant, in reply to its Circular accusing Austrian army of cruelties in Bosnia. It is couched in very strong terms, and indignantly repudiates the accusations, which are declared to be unexpected, contrary to truth, and calumnious, and points out painful impression that the Circular has caused at Vienna.

No. 449.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 17.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, October* 17, 1878.

AUSTRIAN Government has informed Servian Government that the refugees from Bosnia may freely return to their homes.

No. 450.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond-Wolff.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 17, 1878, 4 P.M.

TRANSMISSION of your telegram No. 32 of 15th instant faulty, consequently delay in answering.

Oppose Tzeretelew's proposition. It is certainly a strained and inequitable construction of Treaty.

No. 451.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 17, 1878, 5 P.M.

IN reply to your telegram No. 33 of yesterday, I have telegraphed to Sir H. Elliot to do what he can.

No. 452.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 17, 1878, 6·15 P.M.

ADMIRAL HORNBY has been directed to send a small vessel to take soundings in the Bay of Bourgas.

If any communication or explanation is required will you make it to the Minister of Marine?

No. 453.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 17, 1878.

DO all you can in support of suggestion contained in following telegram from Drummond Wolff:—

(Most Confidential.)

"Could you bring some pressure to bear on Count Andrassy to support me in Commission? Kuli is thoroughly well-disposed, and anxious to do so; but Count Andrassy is wavering and undecided."

No. 454.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1280.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 17, 1878.

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your Excellency's despatch, marked "Secret," No. 1208 of the 30th ultimo, reporting a conversation you had had on the preceding day with His Majesty the Sultan, and I have the satisfaction of stating to your Excellency that the language employed by you with reference to the various subjects discussed with His Majesty at this interview have met with the entire approval of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 455.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1284.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 17, 1878.

IN accordance with instructions which he has received from the Lords of the Admiralty, Admiral Hornby will shortly send a small vessel to the Bay of Bourgas to take soundings.

I have requested your Excellency by telegraph to give all necessary explanations on this subject to the Minister of Marine, should any such be required.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 456.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 549. Most Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 17, 1878.

SIR H. DRUMMOND WOLFF telegraphs that he is satisfied with the attitude of his Austrian colleague on the Roumelian Commission, who is thoroughly well disposed, but that he considers it very desirable that some pressure should be brought to bear on Count Andrassy, who shows hesitation and indecision.

It is of the greatest importance that the Austrian Commissioner should be steady and firm in his support of the general course which is being followed by Sir H. Drummond-Wolff; and I have consequently no hesitation in adopting the latter's suggestion, and requesting your Excellency to lose no opportunity of urging that instructions may be sent to him in that sense; and that he may clearly understand that the two Governments are working together for common objects. Any appearance of division encourages the enemy to place fresh difficulties in the way.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 457.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 57.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 17, 1878.

I HAVE to convey to you my approval of the language which you held to Abro Effendi upon the subject of the appointment by the Porte of a Governor-General for Eastern Roumelia, as reported in your despatch No. 46, Confidential, of the 1st October.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 458.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 58.) [B.B.]

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 17, 1878.

I HAVE to request that you will state to Lord Donoughmore that I have read with great interest his Report of the 27th September upon the condition of Turks, Greeks, and Bulgarians under Russian rule in Eastern Roumelia, which was inclosed in your despatch No. 47 of the 3rd instant.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 459.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 60.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 17, 1878.

I HAVE to state to you that the two motions proposed by you at the sitting of the Commission on the 3rd instant, of which copies are inclosed with your despatch No. 48

of the next day, have been considered, and are approved by Her Majesty's Government.

They likewise entirely support the principle for which you contended, in insisting upon the continuity of the Government of the Sultan over the Province of Eastern Roumelia.

With regard to the precise construction to be placed on the privileges granted by the Sultan to the Imperial Ottoman Bank, I am of opinion that this question may properly be left to the decision of the Ottoman provincial authorities.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 460.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 64.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 17, 1878.

I HAVE to instruct you to oppose the proposition which, as I learn from your telegram No. 32 of the 15th instant, Prince Tzeretelew is likely to bring forward, to the effect that the 50,000 men of the army of occupation may be apportioned between Bulgaria and Roumania in such proportions as Russia thinks fit, the expense to be borne by the country occupied.

As you observe, the effect of such a proposition, if carried into effect, would be that nearly the whole of the 50,000 men might be quartered in Eastern Roumelia, and only a very small proportion of them in Bulgaria; and it appears to Her Majesty's Government that this is certainly a strained and inequitable construction of the terms of the Treaty.

I have communicated the substance of the above to you by telegraph, and have explained to you that my answer has been somewhat delayed owing to the incorrect manner in which your telegram was transmitted to this Office, and the consequent difficulty in decyphering it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 461.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 65.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 17, 1878.

I HAVE informed Sir H. Elliot by telegraph of your wish that some pressure should be brought to bear upon Count Andrassy, with a view to induce him to instruct the Austrian Commissioner to support you; and I have at the same time requested him to take such steps as he thinks most calculated to effect this object.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 462.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Gould.**

(No. 33.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 17, 1878.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith, for your information, copies of a correspondence,† from which you will learn the conditions upon which Her Majesty's Government have assented to the proposal that the delimitation of the frontier which is common to Bulgaria and Servia should be carried out by the Servian Boundary Commissioners.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

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* A similar despatch was addressed to Major Wilson. † Nos.

No. 463.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Colonel Home.

(No. 26.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 17, 1878.

I HAVE to state to you, in reply to the inquiry contained in your despatch No. 10 of the 30th ultimo, that should the question be raised of assigning Silistria to Roumania, you should represent in any quarter from which it may proceed that, under the Treaty of Berlin, Article XLVI, the frontier between Bulgaria and Roumania may cross the Danube as near to Silistria as the Commissioners for the delimitation of the frontier may consider advisable, but that it must be carried to the east of Silistria itself.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 464.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Colonel Home.

(No. 27.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 17, 1878.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 13 of the 30th ultimo, and to my preceding despatch No. 26 of this day's date, I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government entirely concur in your views as to the Memorandum submitted to Lord Lyons by M. Cogalniceano with regard to the construction to be placed on Article XLVI of the Treaty of Berlin, which defines the boundaries between Roumania and Bulgaria.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 465.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Harrison.

(No. 1.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 17, 1878.

HER Majesty's Government having decided to entrust you with the duty of making an inquiry into the financial condition of the Ottoman Empire, and furnishing them with a Report thereon, it is desirable that you should proceed without delay to Constantinople, where your investigation can be conducted under the best conditions for success.

On your arrival you should at once place yourself in communication with Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, who has been instructed to procure for you, as far as lies in his power, all the facilities and information of which you will stand in need for the proper accomplishment of your task.

You will address your official correspondence with this Office to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. You will use your own discretion as to furnishing me with preliminary Reports in regard to any particular branches of the subject you are called upon to investigate, as soon as the information in your possession is in a state sufficiently complete. Such reports, if made, should be forwarded under flying seal through Her Majesty's Ambassador.

Your own experience will point out to you the several questions which will more especially require your attention.

Among them are:—

The direct and indirect revenues collected in each province; the mode of collection, and any defects in it which may diminish the yield to the Porte, or aggravate the burden imposed upon the cultivation or trades.

The expenditure to which the revenues of the Porte are applicable, distinguishing between the items incurred in each province, and those defrayed by the Central Government.

The depreciation of the paper currency, and the possible means of remedying what has become a serious and pressing difficulty for the Turkish Government.

You should report any amendments which may seem to you practicable in the mode of collection, or any provisions by which a more effective check may be imposed upon the expenditure, both local and central.

The cost to the Turkish Treasury of the service of the debt, distinguishing the floating and the bonded debts, and the means available or likely to be available for discharging it.

The general system of finance and accounts now in use, and the methods by which it may be improved.

You have been supplied with whatever information is in the possession of this Department upon these various points, and Sir H. Layard will be ready to instruct Her Majesty's Consular officers to collect for you any further particulars which may be in their power. The rest must be left to your own researches, in which Her Majesty's Government have every reason to believe that the Turkish authorities will be willing to assist you.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 465*.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Harrison.

(No. 2. Very Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 17, 1878.

I INCLOSE herewith, for your confidential information, the accompanying correspondence on the subject of the Ottoman Loans, which has been printed for the use of this Office.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 466.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 18.)

(No. 38. Political.)
My Lord, *Ragusa, October* 9, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report that Captain Testa of the Prussian army, now Acting German Consul at Ragusa, has been appointed member of the Commission for the delimitation of the Montenegrin frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 467.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 18.)

(No. 715.)
My Lord, *Vienna, October* 10, 1878.

THE proceedings of the Porte in forwarding to all the Powers a Circular representing the Austro-Hungarian troops as having been guilty of frightful excesses in Bosnia is regarded here as being the less excusable and the more offensive from the fact that from the day on which the frontier was passed up to the moment at which the Circular was launched not a word of complaint nor a representation of any kind had been addressed by the Porte to the Austrian Government on the subject.

I am informed that Baron Calice asked the Turkish Ambassador how it was, if the cruelties now alleged have been going on for weeks, that he continued constantly coming to the Foreign Office without making any mention of them or asking that they should be prevented; and why the Imperial Government was kept in ignorance of the charges brought against its army till it learnt it from a Circular forwarded to all other Governments.

Essad Bey is said to have been perplexed to find any satisfactory explanation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 468.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 18.)

(No. 717.)
My Lord, *Vienna, October* 11, 1878.

COUNT ANDRASSY being absent from Vienna, Baron Calice is not at this moment able to reply to your Lordship's inquiry as to his Excellency's view upon the question of the administration of East Roumelia.

* Ottoman Loan Print supplied to Mr. Harrison:—Nos. 2807, 2514, 3699, 3610, and Confidential Print, May 1877.

The Austro-Hungarian Commission had telegraphed that, as the Treaty gives the Commission the control of the finances, he considers that it should also have the administration of the province, and that he will act upon this opinion unless otherwise instructed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 469.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 18.)

(No. 719.)
My Lord, *Vienna, October* 11, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship in reply to your telegram of the 9th instant that the Austro-Hungarian Government have no objection to the demarcation of the Servian-Bulgarian boundary being undertaken by the Servian Commission, but it is considered that each of the Commissioners should obtain the consent of his Government to the adoption of this proposal.

It is not thought that the proceedings could properly commence till the Commission is completed by the arrival of the Turkish member of it, and the Porte has been urged to lose no time in sending one.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 470.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 18.)

(No. 720.)
My Lord, *Vienna, October* 12, 1878.

I MENTIONED confidentially to the Italian Ambassador that Count Menabrea had lately told your Lordship that he heard on good authority that Austria was disposed to revive the scheme of a longitudinal division of the Balkan Peninsula between her and Russia.

Count Robilant said that the information had certainly not come from him, as he did not believe in the existence of any such scheme.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 471.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 18.)

(No. 720. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, October* 12, 1878.

WITH reference to the Russian proposal that the Commission of Delimitation should report to the Ambassadors at Constantinople instead of to the Governments, Count Andrassy says that he is not inclined to object to it, but he does not consider that as the "Minister of a Constitutional country" it would be proper for him to delegate to the Ambassador the authority to commit his Government upon the questions referred to him and his colleagues.

The pretext put forward by Russia for the proposal was, he says, that time would be saved by it, but the decision upon the different questions must, in his opinion, rest with the Cabinets which would come to them after learning the views of their Representatives.

The conclusion that I came to from his Excellency's language was, that while he did not wish absolutely to reject the Russian proposal, he had not sufficient confidence in Count Zichy's firmness in resisting the pressure of some of his colleagues to permit him entirely to acquiesce in it, and that he adopted the strange pretext of this being a Constitutional country in order to keep the decision of the different points in his own hands.

For the reasons hinted at in your Lordship's telegram I encouraged him in this resolution.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 472.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 18.)

(No. 725.)
Vienna, October 12, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE inquired of Count Andrassy whether it was proposed to levy duties upon imports into Bosnia under the Austro-Hungarian or the Turkish Tariff.

His Excellency said that no decision has yet been come to upon the question, which is, however, under consideration, and is not unattended with some difficulty, for if the Turkish Tariff is to be maintained a considerable expense will have to be incurred in keeping up a line of Custom-houses along the northern frontier of the province.

It is intended that the whole revenues of Bosnia and the Herzegovina shall be expended within those provinces.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 473.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 18.)

(No. 727.)
Vienna, October 12, 1878.

My Lord,

WHEN I saw Count Andrassy to-day, I asked him if he could enable me to reply to the question your Lordship had directed me to ask respecting his views as to the administration of Eastern Roumelia during the intermediate period.

He said that as the Treaty was silent upon the subject he did not think that the Plenipotentiaries could insist upon Russia abandoning the administration, though it would of course be necessary for the Commission to have the control over the finances as had been laid down in it; the great object he had at heart was to secure the evacuation of the country by the Russians at the proper time, and its provisional administration was of minor importance.

I remarked that according to the Treaty, the maintenance of the tranquillity of the province was to be secured by the formation of a gendarmerie and a militia, of which the officers were to be appointed by the Sultan, and it was essential that this should be completed before the departure of the Russians, but it could not be done unless the Porte or the Commission, or the two in concert, were to administer the province, and in the meantime the Russians were forming a Bulgarian military force, for which they were selecting and nominating the officers, so as to entirely defeat the Berlin arrangement.

Count Andrassy admitted that there was much weight in the argument, which had not before struck him, and if it is possible before he goes to Hungary, which he proposes to do almost immediately, I shall endeavour to ascertain whether he maintains his first view of the question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 474.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 18.)

(No. 729.)
Vienna, October 12, 1878.

My Lord,

WHEN I called upon Count Andrassy to-day he at once began to speak of a communication he had received from the Russian Government, which he imagines to have been made to your Lordship at the same time respecting the necessity of providing for the safety of the Christians in the places from which the Russian troops

retired, it being alleged that they were maltreated and killed. He was, he said, altogether in favour of calling upon the Porte to adopt efficient measures for their protection and for the maintenance of order.

I informed his Excellency of the substance of Sir Henry Layard's telegram, stating that the Grand Vizier had declared these accusations to be without foundation, and also that I understood the Russian evacuation to be carried out in a way to make disorder probable without the Porte being in any respect responsible for them. It was stated that when the Russian troops were leaving a place, as long as a single Cossack remained in it no Ottoman troops were permitted to enter, and it would not be surprising if, under such circumstances, some lawless acts were committed.

There seemed to me much injustice in the way that as soon as the Russians made any complaint against the Porte the latter was, without inquiry, presumed to be in the wrong.

A collective remonstrance against the non-execution of the Treaty of Berlin, one of the charges being that the territory assigned to Servia had not been evacuated, had been prevented only by the refusal of Her Majesty's Government to take part in it, and it then turned out that there was less than no ground for the accusation, as it was Servia and not Turkey which was over-stepping the frontier.

Count Andrassy replied that whether the present charge was true or false, he thought the Porte should be called upon to protect the populations, and it might then show itself to have been in no respect to blame, and if the Russians denied it the means of at once keeping order in the places they left proper arrangements could be made.

He was, he said, convinced that the Emperor Alexander fully intended to carry out all the engagements he had entered into by the Treaty of Berlin, and his wish was to do everything to encourage him in this resolution, and to facilitate its execution.

I said that the facts which were within our own knowledge were not calculated to inspire implicit faith in those professions; military stores had continued without intermission to be passed into Bulgaria across the Danube, and fresh troops from Russia had been landed at Bourgas, while no sign was made for a general evacuation of the Turkish territory; and I then informed him of the declaration of Prince Labanoff about the evacuation of Adrianople, which gave the conversation the turn that I have reported in another despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 475.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 18.)

(No. 730.)
Vienna, October 13, 1878.

My Lord,

AS I mentioned to your Lordship, Count Andrassy left Vienna for Hungary almost immediately after receiving information from Carathéodory Pasha of the telegrams from the Porte declining to enter into a Convention with Austria respecting the occupation of Bosnia, on the ground of the treatment experienced by the populations from the Imperial troops, and I had not till to-day seen his Excellency to speak to him on the subject.

Knowing the vivacity of his disposition, although I had been informed of his having taken the matter very quietly, I was not prepared for the perfect equanimity with which he spoke of a proceeding which he regarded as the petulant outbreak of a weak and misled Sovereign, deceived by the statements of Hafiz Pasha, who, while at Trieste, had not hesitated to throw all the blame of resistance at Bosna-Serai, and the suffering attendant on its capture, upon his own Government, which had sent no sufficient instructions deprecating opposition. This man, on arriving at Constantinople, changed his tone, and for the sake of getting favour at the Palace made statements against the Austrian troops, which there would be no difficulty in showing to be calumnious, if anyone were disposed to believe in them.

Count Andrassy would not, however, he said, be induced by any feeling of resentment to swerve a hair's-breadth from the line he had marked out for himself, which was to preserve Turkey in the position given to it by the Treaty of Berlin, in the face of the suicidal policy in which the Porte had chosen to indulge in this last business. His Excellency spoke laughingly of the impossibility of being seriously irritated by a

Government which, at the very moment of denouncing before all Europe the iniquitous proceedings of Austria, expressed the strongest wish to maintain the best relations with her.

The secret of the Count's equanimity lies, no doubt, to a great extent in the advantage he will derive from the action of the Porte in defending himself against the attacks upon his policy which are preparing when the Chambers open; for if the Sultan's Government had declined to conclude a Convention that did not fully guarantee His Majesty's sovereignty in Bosnia, or fix a period for the duration of the occupation, the Opposition would have acquired a strength of which they will be deprived now that its rejection is stated to be owing to excesses which make the conclusion of any Convention impossible.

Count Andrassy declares that he feels no anxiety about the result of the debates.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 476.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 18.)

(No. 732.)
My Lord, *Vienna, October 14, 1878.*

YOUR Lordship's telegram of the 12th, inquiring the opinion of Count Andrassy upon the statement of Prince Labanoff, that there could be no question of the evacuation of Adrianople till three months after the conclusion of the Treaty now proposed by Russia to the Porte, must have crossed one which I sent to your Lordship the same day, containing the views of his Excellency on the subject.

I had communicated to him the telegram in which Sir H. Layard first reported Prince Labanoff's language, and which was confirmed by the subsequent one upon which your Lordship directed me to ascertain the Count's views.

His Excellency had not received from Count Zichy any report similar to that of Her Majesty's Ambassador, and was scarcely disposed to admit that such a wholly inadmissible pretension could have been brought forward, but repeated in the most emphatic manner the declaration, which I very recently reported to your Lordship, that the period within which the Russians are bound to have removed all their troops from European Turkey was three months from the ratification of the Treaty of Berlin, which must be held to be the Definitive Treaty spoken of in the Preliminary Treaty of San Stefano.

His Excellency had just been expressing entire faith in the assurances of the Emperor Alexander of his determination loyally to execute the Treaty, when I pointed to Sir Henry Layard's Report as evidence that the interpretation His Majesty seemed to intend to give to it was not the one that could be accepted by the other Powers, and this may have indisposed him at once to believe that the Russian Ambassador could have held the language attributed to him.

When I called this afternoon at the Foreign Office I did not see Count Andrassy, who leaves Vienna this evening for Hungary, but I communicated to Baron Orczy Sir H. Layard's telegram confirming his former Report, as well as your Lordship's asking for Count Andrassy's opinion on it.

I found that the Imperial Government was still without any Report from their Ambassador on the subject. This is the more remarkable, as the determination of the Russians in regard to the evacuation is given in many newspapers in their reports from Constantinople, and, though the suspicion may be uncharitable, my knowledge of Count Zichy's character, and of the ease with which he is influenced, makes me think it not improbable that, under feelings of resentment against the Porte for its recent Circular, he may have fallen under the influence of Prince Labanoff, and has therefore abstained from making known to his Government the pretensions of which he cannot have been ignorant.

Baron Orczy, whose caution in not expressing an opinion unless he knows it to be that of his Chief is very great, after telling me that no information had been received from Count Zichy, added that nothing had occurred to make Count Andrassy modify the view he had communicated to me two days ago, and this has now been so distinctly declared on three separate occasions that there can, I hope, be no doubt of its being adhered to.

Whether the Imperial Government would be prepared at once to intimate to the Government of Russia how it regards the obligations of the latter in regard to the

evacuation is a question that I could not at present answer, but I told Baron Orczy to-day that, although I was entirely without instructions from your Lordship to make any such inquiry, I should be glad if, before Count Andrassy leaves Vienna this evening, he could ascertain whether his Excellency did not think that the time was come for making the Cabinet of St. Petersburgh aware of the manner in which he regarded this matter, since we were already within three weeks of the period at which the evacuation ought to be entirely effected.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 477.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 18.)

(No. 734.)
My Lord, *Vienna, October 14, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the inclosed despatch, which has been addressed to me by Colonel Gonne, Military Attaché to this Embassy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 477.

Lieutenant-Colonel Gonne to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Vienna, October 12, 1878.*

ON my return to Vienna I am astonished to find that the actual command of military matters in Bosnia and Herzegovina has been allowed to pass into the hands of the Commander-in-chief Philippovich.

Field-Marshal Lieutenant Romberg, as Vice-Commandant, no longer conveys the orders issued from Vienna, and the Chief of the Staff (Cornaro) has gone to Serajevo. Romberg now commands the 5th Corps.

The Austrians are fortifying the Foca, Visegrad, course of the Drina, and the work of disarmament approaches completion.

A plan for partial demobilization and for the withdrawal of half the troops has been submitted to Philippovich.

Being of opinion that the Austrian force employed over the frontier has been quite double the necessary strength for the work in hand, I am quite at a loss to imagine why an instant of time is lost. Whatever the military authorities may have intended* three weeks ago, now Novi-Bazar is sure to remain under Turkish charge for the winter months, and probably for an indefinite period; therefore, there is no excuse for not curtailing expenditure. But, as I have so often observed, an Austrian never knows the value of time. The difficulties of communication have not decreased, and sickness naturally is on the increase; also for agricultural purposes, vintage, &c., the presence of the reservists in these districts, is greatly needed.

Field-Marshal Lieutenant Beck (Head of Military Cabinet) tells me that on all sides the news is favourable in Turkish Croatia. The troops seem to have allowed no natural obstacles to check their progress, and, with some loss, they seem to have carried terror into fastnesses unvisited by the Turkish representatives of order.

On the Turkish "Circular" the soldiers are very bitter; the indirect threat therein, added to a false accusation, create an angry feeling, and, if it rested with the military, Novi-Bazar would be in immediate danger.

In my opinion, happily, moderate views must needs obtain ascendancy. It is true that Novi-Bazar could be attacked under favourable auspices at the present moment; with the Turks in a state of preparation the Austrians have a very nasty task before them. Novi-Bazar offers far more natural advantages to the defender than did Plevna. The Drina makes a good frontier line, and, in my humble opinion, the Austrians will therewith rest contented. Carathéodory Effendi told me that the aim and object of the late protracted negotiations regarding a Convention pointed at nothing more than "saving" the Pashalik of Novi-Bazar, to which the bulk of the Mahommedans in Bosnia would migrate.

* His Majesty told the German Military Attaché that the troops would not stop short of Novi-Bazar.

Field-Marshal Lieutenant Beck quite repudiates all responsibility for the executions which have taken place by the direction and under the sole responsibility of Philippovich.

I remarked, and his Excellency did not disagree, that neither Mollenarz, Rodu, nor Jovanovitz would have committed the error of executing the leaders of the movement against the Austrian occupation, but I acknowledged that from this moment the Field-Marshal will act wisely if he carries out strictly his own edict, "that any armed inhabitant will be shot." The Chiefs sentenced by the drum-head court-martial were Mahommedans, but the edict shows no favour or affection for any class or religion.* Philippovich (and even Szapary) thinks that peace and quiet will not be assured till the Mahommedans leave the country, so hard a trial will it be for the superior "cast" to live on terms of equality with the hitherto inferior.

At first, the oft-repeated acts of unreasoning fanaticism brought to my notice made a like impression, but, after conversing with all sorts and conditions of men, the impression was modified. The mercantile class and many possessors of landed property will see their advantage in accepting the inevitable, and the irreconcilables will emigrate.

His Majesty the Emperor has been pleased to receive me in private audience, but, naturally, it was my province to impart rather than derive information regarding the late theatre of strife.

I also have had the honour of conversing with the Archduke Albert and Count Andrassy. The Archduke seems to have taken no active part in the plans of occupation, but is quite satisfied with the general result.

Count Andrassy thanked me for the service I had rendered Austria in refuting Turkish calumny.

I disclaimed all merit, and assured his Excellency that I had only described events as they passed under my notice—that the English Government had never anticipated undue severity or cruelty on the part of the Austrians, and had therefore left me without special instructions. I hazarded the remark that Hafiz Pasha had evidently based his accusation on events at Serajevo, a city I had not visited.

His Excellency then explained that the Pasha had exaggerated facts connected with the capture of the town, and made "grand cas" of the fact that the Turkish soldiers in charge of the different Consulates were not distinguished by the troops from the insurgents. I remarked that the number of Chiefs and others executed by sentence of court-martial had exasperated the Turks, as they were all Mahommedans. The Count answered there were two or three Chiefs executed. I corrected the word executed and replaced it by the word hung; and asked his Excellency whether it was not his individual opinion that too many had been shot. Count Andrassy's answer was "cela se peut." I then made my peace by the remark that an English or any other General might have made a similar error in judgment, and stated my firm impression that the Austrian army in general is the least cruel of the European armed forces.

I was unable to obtain a clear idea of the Government views regarding Novi-Bazar. All that I could extract was that the non-signature of a Convention with Turkey by no means diminishes the power granted to Austria under the XXVth Article of the Berlin Treaty. I construe this to mean that Austria remains at liberty to garrison places with a view of securing roads military or commercial, the Government remaining Turk. But if it be true, and there is ample reason for belief, that the Serajevo Salonique (Metrovica) railway is to pass through Servia, Austrian communications interests in the Pashalik of Novi-Bazar are limited. The re-entering Drina line of frontier with a fortified post of observation at Cainica will so nearly satisfy military need that no further advance will be attempted. Austria may indeed retain the power, but she will have to pay a price in men and money far in excess of what is justifiable, or of what the country will sanction.

The Turks have wounded Austrian "amour propre," but circumstances permit them to do so with impunity.

Touching the financial question as it is affected by the present mobilized army, I am informed that three divisions return to their quarters, and will be demobilized; two divisions will return over the Austrian frontier, ready to return, and the strength per company will be reduced to 150 men by sending reservists home. And it is proposed, but not settled, to reduce the companies of the six divisions remaining to the same strength. This would reduce the total of troops in Bosnia to 75,000. A

* Some Christians convicted of using arms against Mahommedans near Banjaluka have been shot. I read an extract from a letter of Szapary's to this effect.

general officer has been sent from this to Serajevo to make final arrangements, but Field-Marshal Lieutenant-General Philippovich is evidently to retain as large a force as possible. Since the commencement he has certainty avoided the error of underestimating the strength of his enemy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. GONNE, *Lieutenant-Colonel, 17th Lancers, Military Attaché.*

No. 478.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 18.)

(No. 736.)
My Lord, *Vienna, October 15, 1878.*

IN consequence of the progress made in the pacification of Bosnia and the Herzegovina, a large reduction, amounting, it is said, to about 70,000, is immediately to be made in the army of occupation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 479.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 18.)

(No. 737. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, October 15, 1878.*

JUST as Carathéodory Pasha was leaving Vienna, he informed me that at his last conversation with Count Andrassy, when he was deprecating any advance of the Austrian troops into the Novi-Bazar district, his Excellency had said that it would not be attempted this year, nor undertaken without the acquiescence of the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 480.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 18.)

(No. 738. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, October 15, 1878.*

THE request for permission for two Russian officers to proceed to the Austrian head-quarters in Bosnia has not been acceded to, on the ground of similar applications on behalf of the Military Attachés of other Powers having already been refused.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 481.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 18.)

(No. 84.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 17, 1878.*

MEETING to-day more satisfactory.

Project proposed by French and Austrian Commissioners for financial administration unanimously adopted.

Sub-Commission formed to manage finances: Abro Effendi, Contouly, and Lord Donoughmore.

Next meeting at Philippopolis on Saturday week.

No. 482.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 18.)

Belgrade, October 18, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

HIAHIJA (*sic*) PASHA, the Turkish Commissioner, with three assistants, arrived here last night, and proceeds to-morrow morning to Nisch.

No. 483.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

Foreign Office, October 18, 1878, 4·20 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I CONGRATULATE you cordially on very satisfactory result of your exertions, as reported in your telegram No. 922.

No. 484.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

Foreign Office, October 18, 1878, 4·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE received your telegram No. 34.

Very satisfactory result.

No. 485.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1200.)

Foreign Office, October 18, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE received your telegram No. 922 of the 17th instant, reporting that a final arrangement has been come to between Moukhtar Pasha and the Cretan Delegates.

This happy result is in a large measure due to your mediation, and I have much pleasure in offering to your Excellency my cordial congratulations upon the success of your efforts.

The substance of the above was telegraphed to your Excellency.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 486.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 68.)

Foreign Office, October 18, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE received your telegram No. 34 of the 17th instant, reporting the unanimous adoption by the International Commission of a scheme for the financial administration of Eastern Roumelia, and the appointment of a Sub-Committee to manage the finances; and I have informed you by telegraph that I am glad to learn that your exertions have led to so very satisfactory a result.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 487.

Count Andrassy to Count Zichy.—(*Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury, October* 19.)

(Télégraphique.)

Vienne, le 4 Octobre, 1878.

L'AMBASSADEUR Turc vient de nous remettre la Circulaire sur les actes de cruauté qui auraient été commis par nos troupes d'occupation. Vous en recevrez un exemplaire par la poste.

Avant tout nous repoussons avec indignation ces accusations aussi inattendues que contraires à la vérité. Elles ne donnent le change à personne en Europe, où le respect qu'inspire l'armée Impériale et Royale et sa réputation sont trop solidement établis pour pouvoir être atteints par de calomnieuses insinuations. Ce qui frappe d'abord dans la Circulaire Ottomane ce sont les témoignages sur lesquels elle se fond. La connivence de Hafiz Pacha avec les troubles en Bosnie et l'Herzégovine n'est en effet un secret pour personne. Notre Consul-Général à Sérajévo nous l'avait signalée et prouvée depuis longtemps. Dans la publication de ses rapports nous avons supprimé les passages y relatifs par un sentiment de ménagement pour la Porte, ne voulant pas compromettre publiquement un de ses hauts fonctionnaires dont l'attitude déloyale aurait rejailli sur elle.

Ce qui frappe en second lieu c'est que la Porte ait jugé compatible avec sa dignité de saisir tous les Grands Cabinets d'accusations aussi graves contre notre armée, sur une base si manifestement erronée, sans même s'être préalablement adressée au Gouvernement Impérial et Royal qui lui aurait donné toutes les facilités pour se convaincre de la fausseté des rapports qui lui sont parvenus. Il nous répugne de réfuter en détail les accusations que la Circulaire énumère. Nous voulons toutefois constater qu'à Banjaluka nos soldats se sont bornés à repousser l'attaque entreprise par des hordes barbares contre l'hôpital occupé de malades, de blessés, de mourants Austro-Hongrois et Bosniaques, et qu'à Sérajévo quelques maisons seulement ont été brûlées, non pas comme mesure de représaille après la prise de la ville, mais par l'effet naturel de la lutte qui a eu lieu dans les rues. Bien que des fanatiques tiraient sur nos troupes par les fenêtres et les lucarnes, la ville n'a été ni saccagée, ni incendiée. Il n'y a eu aucun cas de pillage de la part de nos troupes. Souvent par contre nos soldats ont arrêté le pillage entrepris par des indigènes. Des militaires et correspondants étrangers confirment pour tout ce qui précède les bulletins officiels. Que la Porte mette en regard l'occupation de la Bosnie et de l'Herzégovine par l'armée Impériale et Royale de celle opérée en 1851 et 1852 par Omer Pacha dans le but d'introduire les réformes du Tanzimat. Nous avions devant nous à combattre les mêmes éléments que la Turquie combattait alors, des éléments que les Ministres Turcs vous ont représenté à plusieurs reprises et en dernier lieu encore comme indomptables et sauvages. Nous avons accompli en deux mois ce que Omer Pacha a mis deux ans à achever. Tandis que son armée vivait des réquisitions et qu'il fit dresser de longues listes de proscriptions et d'exécutions, que nous tenons à la disposition de la Porte et sur lesquelles figuraient en grand nombre indistinctement des personnes de toute religion, et surtout plusieurs Pachas et beaucoup de Begs, nous avons payé argent comptant l'entretien de nos troupes et les tribunaux militaires n'ont fait exécuter que quelques individus dont les investigations les plus scrupuleuses avaient démontré à l'évidence la participation à d'effroyables assassinats commis sur nos soldats et sur des fonctionnaires Turcs ou étrangers. Que la Porte mette ensuite en regard des procédés légaux et humains de nos troupes, les massacres et les mutilations de nos blessés. Pour ce qui regarde l'accusation relative à l'internement des soldats Ottomans qui n'auraient pas combattu, nous ne saurions réellement pas assez nous étonner du manque de mémoire de la Porte. Le Gouvernement Ottoman ne se rappelle-t-il plus que nous avons, sans attendre la fin de la lutte, renvoyé dans leurs foyers avec les honneurs militaires des milliers d'hommes qui, fidèles aux traditions honorables de toute armée qui se respecte, avaient refusé leur participation à une insurrection organisée par des hommes sans foi ni loi issus de la lie de la population et qui, après avoir mis à mort des officiers et des fonctionnaires Ottomans, ont établi un régime de terreur et de vol.

Nous constatons à cette place avec satisfaction qu'en général les classes honnêtes n'ont pas pris part au mouvement, à l'exception de quelques localités et de quelques individus qui, pour échapper aux confiscations et aux massacres, durent subir, jusqu'à l'arrivée de nos soldats, le joug des insurgés.

L'esprit dans lequel nous avons entrepris l'occupation ressort de notre Proclamation. Si au lieu de proclamer le respect de toutes les confessions nous eussions déployé le drapeau de la délivrance des Chrétiens, la tâche que nous accomplissons nous eût certes coûté moins de sacrifices. Mais c'eût été le signal de l'extermination des Musulmans, qu'il était de notre devoir de protéger au même degré que les Chrétiens. L'armée Impériale et Royale, dont la discipline et la générosité sont des vertus traditionnelles, a tenu à

honneur, malgré les gueis-apens sauvages et si contraires aux lois de la guerre, comme celui de Maglaï, de réaliser sa mission dans l'esprit du mandat Européen et de notre Proclamation qui, d'ordre de Sa Majesté l'Empereur et Roi, mon auguste Maître, a précédé l'entrée de nos troupes. Les odieuses calomnies portées contre elle ne l'atteignent pas, mais elles ne laissent pas de révolter en Autriche-Hongrie la conscience publique. Il était de mon devoir de les repousser et de signaler à la Porte l'effet fâcheux qu'elles n'ont pu manquer de produire ici.

Votre Excellence voudra communiquer cette dépêche à Safvet Pacha, et lui en laisser une copie s'il le désire.

No. 488.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 19.)

(No. 853.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October* 14, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith an article from the "Golos," published by the "Agence Russe." It advocates the necessity of Russia concluding a separate definitive Treaty with Turkey, based on the preliminary Treaty of San Stefano, by which it is hoped that Russia, by means of a favourable compromise with Turkey, will reassume an exceptional position in the East.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 488.

Extract from the "Agence Russe."

LE TRAITÉ DÉFINITIF RUSSO-TURC.—On lit dans le Golos :—

"On parle depuis quelque temps avec une certaine persistance d'un accord secret qui serait intervenu entre la Russie et la Turquie par rapport à l'exécution définitive du Traité de Paix. Ces rumeurs jettent le trouble dans l'esprit de ceux qui tiennent pour assuré que le Traité de Berlin avait pourvu à tout et qu'il n'est besoin d'aucune autre Convention. Cela fournit, à tous ceux qui sont hostiles à la Russie, l'occasion de reproduire leurs insinuations malveillantes à l'égard d'une politique qu'ils accusent depuis longtemps de manque de franchise. Et, cependant, y a-t-il aux yeux des hommes impartiaux quelque chose de répréhensible dans tout ce que l'on raconte, en admettant que cela soit vrai? Chacun sait que le 19 Février de cette année a été signé à San Stéfano un Traité qui a mis fin à la lutte engagée entre la Russie et l'Empire Ottoman; ce Traité a reçu le titre de préliminaire. Ni la Russie, ni la Turquie, n'ont jamais prétendu qu'il ne puisse y être apporté des modifications. Tout au contraire, le Gouvernement Russe s'est plu à réitérer qu'il ne pensait pas que l'on pût rien fonder de durable en Orient sans que les Grandes Puissances prêtent le concours de leurs lumières. C'est donc par condescendance et égard envers les autre Etats et pour ne rien préjuger que la Russie avait donné au Traité de San Stéfano la qualification de préliminaire. Nul ne peut contester logiquement que ce Traité doive être définitivement consacré; la logique des choses indique cette nécessité. Mais on nous objecte: 'Le Traité de Berlin a complétement modifié le Traité de San Stéfano et les relations réciproques de la Russie et de la Turquie; l'Europe s'est interposée entre les deux adversaires et a nié au vaincu le droit d'entreprendre quoi que ce soit sans son agrément?' D'où il ressortirait suivant le raisonnement de nos 'amis' que la Russie n'est pas fondée à entrer en arrangement direct avec la Turquie. C'est une étrange façon d'interpréter les résolutions prises au Congrès de Berlin. Il est de fait établi que quelques-uns des hommes d'Etat ayant participé à ce Congrès n'ont pas dissimulé leur désir d'anéantir le Traité de San Stéfano; mais le malin hasard est venu se mettre au travers de leurs machiavéliques combinaisons. Voici ce qui est arrivé à Berlin: durant tout le temps que le Congrès a siégé une copie du Traité signé à San Stéfano a été continuellement sous les yeux des diplomates. Les débats, les pourparlers, puis les résolutions prises s'inspiraient de l'idée d'en faire un instrument d'accusation contre la Russie.

"Néanmoins, c'est en se basant sur ce Traité que la Russie a trouvé moyen de déjouer les manœuvres et la mauvaise foi de ses adversaires. Car enfin, le Traité de San Stéfano était le résultat inévitable d'une série de faits accomplis qu'il était impossible de nier ou de travestir. D'ailleurs, ni dans la formule de convocation du Congrès, ni autre part, on ne trouverait l'ombre d'une infirmation plus ou moins explicite du Traité de San Stéfano.

"On chercherait en vain la trace d'une déclaration quelconque tendant à contester à la Russie la faculté de passer un arrangement particulier avec la Turquie. Loin de là, dans une des séances du Congrès, le Prince de Bismarck a, avec beaucoup de lucidité, établi la séparation des intérêts et des droits appartenant à l'Europe en Orient, de ceux que possède la Russie, et a ajouté que, si l'examen et la défense des uns relevaient de l'initiative des Grandes Puissances, il appartenait à la Russie de sauvegarder les Articles du Traité de San Stéfano qui la concernaient exclusivement elle et la Turquie. Aucun des membres du Congrès n'a songé a refuser cette manière de voir, si naturelle. D'où il ressort que rien aujourd'hui ne saurait empêcher que la Russie résolve par un accord spécial avec la Turquie les questions qui ne regardent que ces deux Gouvernements et que le Traité de San Stéfano avait laissées pour ainsi dire ouvertes. On est bien obligé de reconnaître la nécessité de cet arrangement définitif, mais on ne peut maîtriser un sentiment de colère en présence de l'avenir qui s'offrira pour l'Europe lorsque la Russie aura, par suite d'un compromis favorable avec la Turquie, reconquis une situation exceptionnelle en Orient. Il est juste de convenir que les appréhensions ne sont pas exagérées; évidemment la Russie en vertu du Traité séparé qu'elle aura passé avec la Turquie acquiert une priorité susceptible de gêner fortement les Grande s Puissances dans les projets qu'elles nourrissent. Ce qui, par exemple, est tout-à-fait incompréhensible, c'est que l'Europe trouve à redire sur ce que la Russie demande la confirmation du Traité de San Stéfano, elle qui est restée impassible lorsque lui fut dévoilée la Convention subrepticement enlevée par l'Angleterre. Il n'est pas question que le rapprochement entre la Russie et la Turquie puisse porter atteinte aux choses essentielles du Traité de Berlin, mais il en atténuera pour nous les conséquences désavantageuses, et cela suffit pour expliquer les inquiétudes de ceux qui avaient bien cru nous évincer."

No. 489.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 19.)

(No. 854.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October* 14, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith the *précis* of an article from the "Novoe Vremya," published by the "Agence Russe," referring to the differences of opinion manifested by the Commissioners at the first sitting of the European Commission intrusted with the organization of Eastern Roumelia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 489.

Extract from the "Agence Russe."

LA COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE DE LA ROUMÉLIE ORIENTALE.—Voici le résumé de l'article du "Nouveau Temps" que nous avons signalé à la fin de notre dernier numéro :—

"Ainsi qu'il fallait s'y attendre la Commission Internationale chargée de l'organisation de la Roumélie Orientale a révélé dès ses premières séances les profondes divergences qui la divisent. Un télégramme de l'Agence Reuter mande que le Commissaire Russe aurait déclaré que la Russie entendait que la Roumélie fut administrée selon le programme du Traité de San Stéfano et non celui du Traité de Berlin. Sur quoi, les autres Commissaires ont demandé à en référer à leur Gouvernement respectif. Nous attendrons d'être édifiés par les renseignements de source Russe avant de préjuger les conséquences de cette attitude de notre Représentant, mais dont et déjà nous sommes convaincus que s'il y a eu protestation ce sont les empiétements du Délégué Anglais qui l'auront provoqué. On peut deviner ce qui a pu arriver grâce à ce que l'on connait déjà de l'infatuation de ce Délégué, Mr. Wolff, qui est en même temps le Président de la Commission. Foulant aux pieds tout sentiment de conve-

nance, le Président Wolff a soulevé la motion de considérer le vote de la majorité comme obligatoire aussitôt que la minorité le laisse sans protestation. Or, comme il est peu probable que la minorité de la Commission puisse jamais présenter une protestation collective, c'est-à-dire que les protestations séparées, telles que celle du Délégué Russe, par exemple, seront de nulle valeur."

No. 490.

Mr. Law to Sir J. Paunceforte.—(Received October 19.)

Treasury Chambers, October 18, 1878.

Sir,

REFERRING to the letter from the Foreign Office of the 10th instant, and to the letter from this Department of the 15th instant in reply thereto, respecting the employment of Mr. E. F. Harrison, Comptroller-General at Calcutta, on an inquiry into the financial condition of the Turkish Empire, I am directed by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to request that you will move the Secretary of State to cause my Lords to be favoured with a copy of the letter in which my Lords are given to understand the Secretary of State for India in Council signified his assent to the employment of Mr. Harrison in Turkey, as my Lords have reason to fear that there may have been some misunderstanding in regard to the terms of his engagement.

I am, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM LAW.

No. 491.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Sir J. Paunceforte.—(Received October 19.)

(Confidential.)

Admiralty, October 19, 1878.

Sir,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a telegram which has been received from Vice-Admiral Sir G. P. Hornby reporting that he had sent Her Majesty's ship "Condor" to Bourgas to survey that port, as directed in the telegram sent by the Admiralty on the 18th instant in compliance with the wishes of the Marquis of Salisbury.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 491.

Vice-Admiral Sir G. Hornby to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Artaki, October 18, 1878, 2·50 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

YOUR telegraphic communication of 17th received. "Condor" has been instructed accordingly, and will proceed to survey Bourgas.

Ambassador's permission is obtained from Porte.

No. 492.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 257.)

(Telegraphic.)

Vienna, October 18, 1878.

I HAVE again strongly urged that the administration of Eastern Roumelia should be under the control of Commission, which I presume to be the point to which Sir H. Wolff refers in his telegram repeated to me yesterday; and Baron Calice took a note of my arguments in order to forward them to Count Andrassy.

No. 493.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 925.)

(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, October 18, 1878.

DESPATCH just received from the Vice-Consul at Philippopolis, dated the 16th instant, gives information as to a movement, encouraged and assisted by Russians, for creating an insurrection in Macedonia of a formidable character. One district has already taken up arms, and an engagement has taken place between Bulgarians and Turkish troops. The facts mentioned by Mr. Calvert, whose despatch goes home to-day, taken in connection with the reports received from Consul Reade and Vice-Consul Dalziel, of Russian troops being sent in considerable numbers to south of Balkans, may deserve serious consideration of Her Majesty's Government. Mr. Calvert states that Russian agents are informing the Bulgarians that Russia, taking advantage of Austrian embarrassments in Bosnia, and of England's difficulties in Afghanistan, is about to carry out her design of forming a great Bulgarian Kingdom.

No. 494.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 927. Secret.)

(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, October 19, 1878.

AUSTRIAN Ambassador tells me, most confidentially, that Russian Ambassador admitted to him to-day that the whole Bulgarian population would be removed from territories outside of Eastern Roumelia, and settled in that province in villages and houses from which the Mussulmans have been driven.

There can be little doubt, from further observations made by him, that it is the intention of Russia so to increase Bulgarian population in that province as to make its speedy union with Bulgaria a certainty.

No. 495.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Colonel Home.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, October 19, 1878, 4·30 P.M.

HAVE received your despatches Nos. 16 and 17, also report from Sir L. Simmons on your telegram of the 10th instant.

I think that Balkan frontier must be surveyed by an English party. It will not be safe in any degree to trust to Russian maps.

As to Dobrudscha frontier, I would not go to expense of an English survey; but, if Roumanians wish to survey, you might assist them. Communicate direct with Mr. White.

The longer survey of Southern Roumelian frontier is put off the better. I am very sorry for persistent procrastination of the Turks. Her Majesty's Government are using their utmost influence, hitherto without avail, to overcome it in more important matters.

Questions of economy I cannot answer till I have consulted Treasury.

No. 496.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir R. Wood.

(No. 25.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 19, 1878.

YOUR despatch No. 11 of the 8th October has been received and laid before the Queen, and I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government are glad to hear that the Bey's mind is at rest concerning any supposed project on the part of the French Government for the annexation of Tunis having been favoured by Her Majesty's Government.

Nothing but evil can result from the fears which you inform me have recently

occupied his mind, and you should take every suitable occasion for inducing him to dismiss from his thoughts any apprehension of sinister intentions on the part of either France or Italy. It is his interest to live at peace with them, and to avoid giving to either Power any legitimate cause of complaint. If such a policy be carefully observed, and if His Highness governs with a constant care for the well-being of his subjects, there is no reason to anticipate that neighbouring Powers will form any wishes inconsistent with his security.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 497.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Colonel Home.

(No. 29.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 19, 1878.*

YOUR despatches Nos. 16 and 17 of the 10th instant have been received, and they have been submitted to Sir. L. Simmons for his opinion. A copy of that officer's Report thereon is herewith inclosed for your information.

With regard to the demarcation of the Balkan frontier, I am of opinion that it would be most unsafe to place reliance upon the Russian maps, and that this frontier should therefore be carefully traced under the surveillance of English officers.

Her Majesty's Government are not disposed to undertake the sole expense of making the survey between Roumania and Bulgaria, although they would not object to your assisting the Roumanians in this work if their Government decide upon surveying this frontier, and ask for your assistance. Upon this point it would be well that you should communicate directly with Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Bucharest.

Upon political grounds, Her Majesty's Government are clearly of opinion that it would be advisable to postpone as long as possible the delimitation of the southern frontier of Roumelia.

I regret to learn from your Report that the Turkish authorities have neglected to take the preliminary steps necessary to enable the Commission to enter upon its functions, but I am hardly surprised at this procrastination, as Her Majesty's Government, in spite of their constant efforts, have hitherto failed to make any impression upon the Porte in regard to matters of still more pressing importance.

I am in communication with the Lords of the Treasury upon the subject of the financial arrangements suggested in your despatch No. 17, but I must defer instructing you upon this subject until I am made acquainted with their Lordships' opinion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 498.

Sir E. Thornton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 20.)

(No. 271.)
My Lord, *Washington, October 7, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting Consul at Philadelphia, together with two copies of each of two photographs, one of the German steamer "Cimbria," and the other of the "State of California," now the property of the Russian Government, and re-christened the "Europe." Mr. Crump gives a description of the "Europe;" but I have already forwarded to your Lordship Admiral Gore-Jones' Report upon her, for the information of the Admiralty.

The "Cimbria" having transferred the Russian officers and seamen whom she had on board to the "Europe," has left Philadelphia. Your Lordship will perceive that Mr. Crump states that she had gone to Boston; but I observe from the New York newspapers that she has arrived at New York, and is to be restored to the regular Hamburgh line to which she formerly belonged.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. THORNTON.

Inclosure in No. 498.

Acting Consul Crump to Sir E. Thornton.

Sir, *Philadelphia, October 8, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose you two copies each of the steamers "Cimbria" and the "State of California," now called the "Europe," purchased by the Russian Government, and intended at the time of purchase for a cruizer.

The "Cimbria" is a German ship, belonging to the Hamburgh American Packet Company, and chartered by the Russian Government for one year, as a transport of marines to this country to man any rapid-going steamers that should be purchased for conversion into Russian ships of war. The stipulated price for the service was 14,800*l.*, with the ship's value secured to the owners. On the 29th April she came to anchor in South-west Harbour, State of Maine, with a contingent of 600 men and 103 officials, as passengers and officers; on the 12th September she arrived in this harbour, to remain for an indefinite period of time.

The "State of California" is a new iron steamer, built by the Messrs. Cramp and Sons of this port. She is 375 feet in length, 31 feet beam, 40 feet depth in hold, with ¾-inch iron skin; no water-tight compartments; three masts, ship rig; compound vertical engine—high pressure, 37-inch diameter, low pressure, 72-inch diameter, 50-inch stroke; one smoke stack, six boilers, with coal space for 900 tons; a 16-foot diameter screw, and nominal horse-power, 950. She has no torpedo fittings; is to have six guns broadside and one pivot, all which she will receive in Europe. Her crew will probably number 250 men, all told. Her engine, working at the dock, shows sixty revolutions per minute with 65 lbs. of steam; she has no steam steering gear. She is elaborately fitted up; promises to be fast; and in general appearance is a handsome ship, not adapted for fighting heavy armament or extremely severe weather.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE CRUMP.

P.S.—The "Cimbria" has left this port for Boston.

G. C.

No. 499.

Mr. Dering to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, October 19, 1878.*

THE Anti-Socialist Bill was finally passed this afternoon by 221 votes against 149. Prince Bismarck closed the Session in a short speech thanking the House for their consent to a Bill with which the Government would do its best to stem the growing evil. He hoped the Bundsrath would accept it unanimously. It could not be expected that the evil could be cured in two years and a-half, and the coming Reichstag would have to consider further necessary measures growing out of this Bill. Just before the customary cheers for the Emperor which close the Session all the Socialist Deputies left the House in a body.

No. 500.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 20.)

(No. 35.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 19, 1878.*

GENERAL DICKSON has sent you a report to the effect that Russian troops having crossed Balkans, there must be between 80,000 and 90,000 in Eastern Roumelia.

I propose starting, if possible, Wednesday for Adrianople and next day for Philippopolis.

Please inform me if you have any instructions in consequence of this large increase of force.

Russians have imprisoned at Philippopolis Greek Primat [group wrong] to Mustapha

Pasha, on pretence of [group wrong] having been concerned in the events of 1876; but really for refusing to sign petitions for annexation.

Is there any truth in the report of a winter Session of Parliament?

No. 501.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 20.)

(No. 928.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 19, 1878.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 17th instant, Grand Vizier says Porte has at present no jurisdiction in Bay of Bourgas, which is in Russian possession, and that its permission for British vessels to take soundings would be of no avail. As a mere formality I have asked for permission.

No. 502.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 20.)

(No. 929.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October 19, 1878.*

FOLLOWING telegram has been received from Mr. Blunt dated Larissa, to-day:—

"Official telegram of yesterday, dated from Salonica, states that 2,000 Bulgarian rebels from district of Djuma have made an irruption into district of Serres, and are destroying Turkish villages. Ottoman troops have been sent against them."

This appears to confirm information from Vice-Consul Calvert, telegraphed to your Lordship yesterday, respecting threatened rising in Macedonia, fomented by Russia.

No. 503.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 20.)

(No. 36.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 20, 1878.*

RECEIVED Vienna telegram. My wish was for general instructions from Count Andrassy for support not limited to one question.

No. 504.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 20.)

(No. 173.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October 20, 1878.*

I HAVE received following answers to your Lordship's telegrams of 16th instant from Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, dated Livadia:—

"We conform strictly to Articles XVIII and XIX of the Treaty of Berlin, and cannot admit that our Commissioner deviates from them. Will ask from him explanations on question referred to."

To second telegram following is reply:—

"Our military authorities being on the spot are better able to judge state of the localities we evacuate; they further take cognizance of their condition in concert with Turkish authorities and for the purpose of re-establishing the order and security which will render it possible for us to continue retrograde movement of our troops.

"If the reports of English officers were exact, we should not witness emigration in masses of a terrorized population. Being charged to receive and lodge them, we can be under no delusion on that subject."

No. 505.

Vice-Admiral Hornby to the Secretary to the Admiralty.—(Received October 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *Artaki, October 20, 1878.*

IN reference to your telegram No. 119 of 17th, Ambassador acquaints me that Porte has no jurisdiction at present at Bourgas, which place is in Russian possession, and, therefore, permission of the Porte to survey would be of no avail. I await further notice on the subject.

No. 506.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 21.)

(No. 136. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, October 7, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of a letter which I have received from Mr. Consular Agent Doulcet, on the subject of the Circassian and Tartar emigrants arrived at Samsoon from Bulgaria within the last few months.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure in No. 506.

Consular Agent Doulcet to Vice-Consul Biliotti.

M. le Consul, *Samsoon, le 2 Octobre, 1878.*

NOUS sommes à peu près débarrassés des émigrés Bulgares qui ont débarqué ici; il n'en reste plus que 2,000 environ.

Nous en avons reçu à peu près 17,000, dont 2,000 de race Circassienne, et 15,000 de race Tartare, à peu d'exceptions près.

Les premiers ont été envoyés dans les parages de Sivas, où il y avait déjà beaucoup de leurs compatriotes fixés depuis longtemps; les autres ont été dirigés en trois portions à peu près égales sur Mersivan, Tchoroum, et Angora.

La mortalité a été grande parmi ces malheureux pendant le long séjour que beaucoup ont fait ici, et dans de très-mauvaises conditions hygiéniques; c'est-à-dire entassés dans des mosquées, des bans et autres lieux, ou bien campés en plein air sans abri contre la chaleur du jour et l'humidité de la nuit.

Des voyageurs qui les ont vues à leurs destinations dernières rapportent qu'il y a parmi eux de nombreux malades, et qu'il en meurt chaque jour beaucoup.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) N. DOULCET.

No. 507.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 21.)

(No. 1251.) [B.B.]
My Lord, *Therapia, October 14, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Adrianople with reference to the difficulties thrown by the Russian authorities in the way of his contemplated visit to the districts where Turkish refugees have been repatriated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 507.

Acting Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Adrianople, October* 9, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 2nd instant relative to the visit which I had proposed to make to the districts where Turkish refugees have been repatriated, I have the honour to submit that it does not appear, under the circumstances which have now arisen, to be either advisable or necessary that I should perform the journey in question.

I had deferred the matter for some days, owing to the prolonged absence at Philippopolis of Mr. Black, to whose care I would have entrusted the current business of the Consulate. In the meanwhile, deeming it necessary to have some personal protection on the road from Yamboli to Slimnia and other places, I requested, in writing, General Sipinski to furnish me with letters to the military commandants of the localities named, with a view to being accompanied, where it might seem advisable, by one or two Cossacks. No reply was returned to my request, and Mr. Black having returned, I sent the Dragoman of the Consulate yesterday to inquire whether my letter had reached his Excellency. The Governor answered that he had received it, but that he could not comply with my request, the commandants at Yamboli and Slimnia not being under his orders. He, at the same time, let fall some remarks, which he has since repeated to one of my colleagues, plainly showing that the proposed visit would be distasteful to the Russian authorities. I would, nevertheless, have repeated my application by addressing the Commander-in-chief on the subject had it not been that a reflux of the tide of emigration has begun to set in to day from the northern districts, whereby it appears probable that I shall be enabled to obtain here all the desired information as effectually as I could do on the spot. I am now collecting it from the refugees already here, and hope to furnish your Excellency with a first report on the subject to-morrow.

I shall, therefore, unless I hear to the contrary from your Excellency, give up the proposed journey, and abstain from making a renewed and probably fruitless application for the military escort, without which it would clearly be imprudent to venture into the districts in question, where it seems a state of utter lawlessness now prevails.

Pending my more particular report, I would call your Excellency's attention to the general fact that all the repatriated refugees, it is said, bitterly repent having returned to their homes, and those who can find the means to do so are coming away. The case of those refugees who have been sent from Constantinople within the last two or three weeks, unprovided with passports, is especially deplorable, as they have been refused permission to proceed to their homes, and remain encamped near the railway stations at Yeni-Zaghra and Yamboli. It is most desirable that arrangements should at once be made by the Porte with the railway authorities for the re-conveyance to Constantinople of this class of refugees at least; and, meanwhile, in my humble opinion, the work of repatriation, under any circumstances whatsoever, should, for humanity's sake, be stopped until some sort of security can be had for the lives and property of those who are thus entrusted to the mercy of the existing Russo-Bulgarian régime.

I just learn that, of twenty returned prisoners of war who arrived at Yamboli ten or twelve days ago, the half have been killed on their way to their homes by Bulgarian gendarmes. One of the survivors has returned here, and I hope to include the information derived from this source in my to-morrow's report.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

No. 508.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 21.)

(No. 741. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, October* 16, 1878.

ONE of my colleagues tells me he has ascertained that the Austrian Government is encouraging Greece to assume a menacing position towards Turkey.

As he assures me that he knows this to be the case beyond the possibility of a doubt, it is my duty to report the statement to your Lordship, notwithstanding its inconsistency with Count Andrassy's language to myself, and with the interests of this country, which would not be promoted by fresh complications in the East.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 509.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 21.)

(No. 742.)
My Lord, *Vienna, October* 16, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the inclosed despatch, which has been addressed to me by Lieutenant-Colonel Gonne, Military Attaché to this Embassy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 509.

Lieutenant-Colonel Gonne to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Vienna, October* 15, 1878.

WITH reference to my last communication, four in place of three divisions are to demobilize, viz. :—

6th division from Graz, belonging to 13th corps.					
14th	"	Presburg,	"	5th	"
31st	"	Pest,	"	5th	"
33rd	"	Komorn,	"	4th	"

The staff of the three corps returns to normal duty; the strength per company of the seven remaining divisions is reduced to 150 men, and only two cavalry regiments, viz., the 5th and 12th Lancers, remain in Bosnia. The War Minister has also suggested that two of the seven divisions shall be marched to the frontier and procure quarters for the winter on Austrian soil.

The strength of the 18th division, by the addition of the 20th brigade from Josephstadt, was raised to about 20,000. The only reduction of this force will be the reduction of strength per company.

The strength of the Austrian troops in the Turkish Slav provinces will be as nearly as possible 60,000 men.

As a matter of course the Dalmatian Landwehr and the Honved Brigade from Agram will be sent to their homes.

It is purposed to maintain the gendarmerie at a strength of 2,000.

In military circles the management of affairs by Jovanovic has been compared to the leadership of the Commander-in-chief with comment unfavourable to Philippovich, but to be strictly just it must be remembered that Jovanovic (the brother-in-law but by no means the friend of Baron Rodic, Governor of Dalmatia*) has since the commencement of the Christian rising against the Porte ingratiated himself with Slav malcontents. The insurgents from over the frontier used to consult him at Ragusa whilst in command there.

The Montenegrins on the boundary line were in his favour, and at least he was perfectly well informed before marching on Mostar.

Mollinary might have enjoyed a like advantage had he been intrusted with the command, but Philippovich had nothing to help him but his Slav name and sympathy. It is notorious that Philippovich has been unguarded in his language in speaking of Count Andrassy, and confidentially I may state that the ill-judged Turkish Circular is the prime cause why the army of occupation is not provided with a new chief.

Although the corps no longer exist, and their Commanders return to other duty, I am told that the Duke of Wurtemburg will remain at Serajevo.

* Jovanovic and Rodic married two sisters; their private relations are not very friendly, but they are both Slavs.

The removal of Philippovich is still in contemplation when a favourable opportunity may occur.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. GONNE, *Lieutenant-Colonel, 17th Lancers, Military Attaché.*

No. 510.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 21.)

(No. 744.)
Vienna, October 17, 1878.

My Lord,

THE answer of the Austro-Hungarian Government to the despatch by which the Porte accused the army of occupation in Bosnia of cruelty and excesses will before this have been communicated to your Lordship.

While repudiating the accusation as altogether untrue, it is as moderate as could be expected under the circumstances, and it is, I am told, looked upon as satisfactory both by military and general public.

I read to Baron Orczy your Lordship's despatch No. 515, giving the answer you had returned to the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires upon his communication of Safvet Pasha's telegram; and also your No. 511, by which you direct me to recommend the adoption of a moderate and conciliatory treatment of the Bosnians.

He heard it without remark; but there is no doubt of the Government being dissatisfied with the proceedings of the Commander-in-chief towards the Mussulmans, and it is stated that he will very shortly quit Bosnia in order to resume his former command at Prague.

I shall not fail to conform my language on all occasions to the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch; but I may state that I have already frequently expressed myself in the sense of them with as much freedom as was possible without giving offence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 511.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 21.)

(No. 857.)
St. Petersburgh, October 16, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship the following articles in translation by Mr. Michell from the Russian press:—

1. Imperial order granting furloughs to Russian soldiers.

2. Article from the "Russki Mir" of the 5th (17th) October, advocating the necessity of taking advantage of the difficulties now being encountered by England in India and Austria in Bosnia for the unification of Slav territories in Eastern Roumelia with the Principality of Bulgaria.

3. Article from the "Russki Mir" of the 7th October, giving particulars respecting General Stoletoff's Mission to Cabul and the Afghan Embassy to Tashkend.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 511.

Extract from the "Official Gazette" of October 1/13, 1878.

(Translation.)

FURLOUGHS TO RUSSIAN SOLDIERS.—By an order of His Imperial Majesty, the troops within the confines of the Empire and the Caucasus, and which have been reduced to a peace footing, may, at the discretion of their commanding officers, be granted short furloughs to the 1st March, 1879. These furloughs are, however, not to be granted indiscriminately, but on substantial grounds, and the number of such furloughs granted must not be so excessive as to weaken the effectiveness of the forces.

Inclosure 2 in No. 511.

Extract from the "Russki Mir" of 24th October/5th November 1878.

(Translation.)

THE following article appears in the "Russki Mir," of the 24th October/5th November, advocating the necessity of taking advantage of the difficulties now being encountered by England in India, and Austria in Bosnia, for the unification of Slav territories in Eastern Roumelia with the Principality of Bulgaria:—

"The anxieties of the English in India so opportunely raised by the Ameer of Afghanistan serve to simplify our task with respect to Bulgaria and Roumelia. The more trouble England encounters in Asia the greater will be our freedom of action in Europe in regard to matters in the East.

"* * * It is necessary to keep the position of our opponents well in view, to take cognizance of their sorrows and anxieties, in order to take advantage at the proper moment of favourable circumstances, with a view of directing our own interests in a proper channel. The possibility now presents itself of securing the future of our kinsmen of the Balkan Peninsula with the smallest pecuniary losses on the part of the State, and thus consolidate the results of the last war without any further sacrifices on our part. This is the substance of the political programme which should henceforth be strictly and consecutively pursued by us in the Balkan Peninsula. The collision between England and the Afghans is as favourable to the execution of this programme as are the difficulties encountered by Austria in Bosnia. Much can still be done in the sense of emancipating Bulgarian territory of the new 'Eastern Roumelia,' and its unification with the Principality of Bulgaria. Servia and Montenegro might also gain considerable advantages from the foreign and internal troubles of Austro-Hungary.

"For Russia the pith and strength of the Eastern question lies in its European position, while for England the principal importance of it is to be found in its Eastern or Indian part. While England is occupied in Asia something may be gained in Europe, especially since our other opponent, Austria, is also paralyzed by the complication of its affairs. The question of the Balkan Peninsula has already entailed great losses and sacrifices on us, and it is therefore, at all events, necessary to derive the greatest possible results from the political position we have acquired within the confines of what was formerly European Turkey."

Inclosure 3 in No. 511.

Extract from the "Russki Mir" of October 7/19, 1878.

(Translation.)

THE "Russki Mir" of the 7th/19th October, 1878, publishes the following letter from Tashkend:—

"About 12 o'clock on the 31st/19th September the Afghan Embassy arrived at Tashkend.

"In order to explain how the above-mentioned Embassy found its way to us I must go back to the 19th July, when Major-General Stoletoff, accompanied by Colonel Rosgonoff, four interpreters, and twenty-two Cossacks, left Samarkand for Cabul.

"From reliable information which I have obtained, I am able to state that the Russian Embassy was despatched with the object of opening direct commercial relations with Afghanistan, as well as with India, and likewise to express to Shere Ali our appreciation of his mode of action in regard to Russia during the Russo-Turkish War.

"On the 26th July our Embassy reached the town of Mazari-Sherif, the Governor of which place was instructed by the Ameer to conduct the Embassy to Cabul, but as the Governor was taken ill on the arrival of the Embassy it was necessary to await his recovery; on the seventh day after its arrival the Governor died, and the Embassy then proceeded, accompanied only by an escort.

"On the 20th July* the Embassy reached Cabul, and in accordance with the Ameer's orders was lodged close to the palace.

"On the following day the Ameer formally received the Embassy in the presence

* 10th August, S. S.

of his Ministers and Court officials. According to the accounts of witnesses the Ameer was extremely gracious, and ordered that the Russians should be shown everything of note in the town. Ceremonial dinners were given, and a large parade took place in honour of the Embassy. The total number of troops in Cabul itself amounted, as I am informed, to about 40,000 men; the majority of these are equipped in the English style. In regard to their arms, they are not so bad as the English papers try to represent; on the contrary, all the infantry are armed with English breech-loaders, and the artillery consists of many breech-loading guns.

"Shere Ali, in order to express the extent of his appreciation of Russia's friendship, requested Major-General Stoletoff to inform him whether he considered it possible to take with him some officials which he, the Ameer, would appoint to Tashkend, in order that they might personally testify to General Kaufmann the great honour which had been done the Ameer by the despatch of an Embassy to him.

"And thus, as stated above, the Afghan Embassy arrived at Tashkend.

"The Embassy consists of Munshi-Mahomet-Hassan-Khan, Minister of Interior; in appearance he is about forty years old, middle height, dark complexion, and thick black beard.

The next important person in the Embassy is the Ameer's personal adjutant, who holds the rank of Colonel; there are also two staff officers and a treasurer.

"On the 5/17th September, General Kaufmann received the Embassy at his country residence, in the presence of the officials of the Turkestan region.

"The Envoy expresses himself fluently in the Persian tongue, and speaks so rapidly that General Stoletoff found difficulty in translating all that he said into Russian.

"A large parade will take place in honour of the Embassy.

"It is reported that the Embassy will visit Petersburgh. I cannot, however, vouch for the truth of this, and can only assert that Major-General Stoletoff left Tashkend for Livadia on the 10th September."

"I have obtained a view of the presents which are to be made to the Embassy. Munshi-Mahomet-Hassan-Khan will receive a silver goblet with a lid; the adjutant will receive a silver ring, and the two staff officers are to be presented with a silver cup and goblet. The members of the Embassy, being all smokers, are also to receive a silver cigar case. Moreover, General Kaufmann has given orders for the purchase of some good cloth, which will also be presented.

"It is not yet known what will be sent to the Ameer."

No. 512

Mr. Montaubll to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 21.)

(No. 433.)
My Lord,

Rome, October 16, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 414 of the 10th ultimo relative to the Greek Circular, I beg to inform your Lordship that the Greek Chargé d'Affaires called upon me this morning to know if any progress had been made towards a settlement of the difficulties pending between his Government and the Porte.

From M. Paparigopolo's remarks, I gathered that he had learnt from the Minister of Foreign Affairs that his Excellency had been in communication with your Lordship through me on the subject, and that Count Corti had given him clearly to understand that, however much the Italian Government regretted the tardiness of the Porte in settling this question, they could not, under the present circumstances, take the initiative in any representations, nor could they act singly in the matter, the more so as Her Majesty's Government was of opinion that the moment was not opportune for interfering with the Mussulman population of the districts in question.

I replied, that so far as I was aware, Count Corti's statement was correct, that I believed Her Majesty's Government was ready to join in any proposal for mediation, but that your Lordship was certainly of opinion that to interfere with the Mussulman population of those districts at the present moment would entail very serious disasters. To a further remark which M. Paparigopolo made, that if the appeal of Greece remained unheeded and unsupported the country would be forced by the country to declare war with Turkey, I ventured to answer that, should this be the case, his Government would incur a very serious responsibility and the country a risk, which it

may soon learn to regret, whilst certainly forfeiting the good-will and sympathy of all Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 513.

Mr. Macdonell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 21.)

(No. 441.)
My Lord,

Rome, October 16, 1878.

HAVING learnt from the Russian Ambassador that he had asked the Italian Government to appoint a second Commissioner for the delimitation of the Bulgarian frontier, I asked Count Corti whether such an appointment had been made by him. His Excellency said that the Italian Delegate having complained that owing to the extent of territory he could not single-handed satisfactorily fulfil his task they had given Colonel Orero an assistant, who might be employed by him south of the Balkans if necessary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 514.

Mr. Macdonell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 21.)

(No. 445.)
My Lord,

Rome, October 16, 1878.

AT the request of Count Corti, I telegraphed to your Lordship that his Excellency attached great importance to the steps which your Lordship purposed taking with regard to the Greek Circular.

Count Corti said that he had received information from the Italian Representatives at Athens and Paris which led him to believe that it was your Lordship's intention to propose certain changes in the territorial concessions to be made by Turkey to Greece, and that the cession of Crete had been suggested by your Lordship as a fair equivalent for that portion of the Turkish territory which Greece now claims, and the annexation of which, under present circumstances, Greece would find it difficult to effect. His Excellency went on to say that, in presence of the many conflicting reports which have lately reached him, he would wish to be prepared to answer any questions that might be put to him as to the policy of the Italian Government with regard to Greece, and as it was his anxious desire to act jointly with Her Majesty's Government in all matters connected with the Eastern question, he would be glad to know your Lordship's views on the subject.

On receipt of your lordship's telegram of the 5th instant I lost no time in communicating to his Excellency the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, and his Excellency again remarked that though the question of Greece had attracted general attention in Italy, and was of a nature likely to give trouble to the Italian Government, owing to the prominent part they had taken in bringing forward the claims of Greece, yet he fully appreciated the value of your Lordship's remarks, the more so as he felt confident that the opinion of Her Majesty's Government was shared by the French Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 515.

Mr. Macdonell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 21.)

(No. 446.)
My Lord,

Rome, October 16, 1878.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 9th instant, and my telegraphic reply of the 10th instant, relative to the administration of Eastern Roumelia pending the intermediate period, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that

Count Corti, whilst fully agreeing with the distinction drawn between administration and occupation, his Excellency is nevertheless still doubtful as to the interpretation to be set on Articles XVIII and XIX of the Treaty, which in his opinion convey a different idea.

His Excellency said that, though disposed to adopt your Lordship's views with regard to this matter, he had deemed it prudent to consult the French and German Governments, in the event of a question being raised in the Italian Parliament—a question which he would find some difficulty in answering, unless he was in possession of the opinion of the other Signatory Powers with regard to so important a point.

Up to the present moment the Italian Delegate has been instructed to postpone the expression of his opinion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 516.

Mr. Macdonell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 21.)

(No. 448.)
Rome, October 18, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 446 of the 16th instant relative to the administration of Eastern Roumelia, Count Corti now informs me that, in principle, he certainly agrees with the opinion entertained by your Lordship as to the distinction to be drawn between occupation and administration; but his Excellency remarked that, on reading the Protocol, as also from his recollection of what occurred at the Congress, the question was so far settled by Her Majesty's Plenipotentiaries proposing that the administration should rest at once with the Porte, that in consequence, however, of certain objections raised at the time, it was decided, after a long discussion, that the financial administration only should be transferred from the hands of the Russians to those of the European Commission. Such was the understanding which his Excellency believed was come to at Berlin.

Count Corti, moreover, questions whether this is a point which the Powers are called upon to decide by a majority. Under these circumstances, his Excellency thinks it advisable to await the result of the discussion now going on between Her Majesty's Government and that of Russia, in the hope that this question may be settled by them, to the satisfaction of those Powers less directly interested in the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 517.

Mr. Dering to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 21.)

(No. 578.)
Berlin, October 18, 1878.

My Lord,

IN the course of a conversation I had early in the week with Herr von Bülow, I took an opportunity of asking his Excellency whether he could now give me a reply as to the opinion of the German Government respecting the intermediary administration of Eastern Roumelia.

Herr von Bülow said that in this matter, as in the whole Eastern question, Germany did not wish to be the first to express her opinion; on the contrary, she was more inclined to wait and hear first what was the opinion of the other Powers more directly interested in the Eastern question than Germany. He could not, consequently, yet express himself on the matter, which required much consideration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY NEVILL DERING.

No. 518.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 21.)

(No. 931.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October 20, 1878.*

FOLLOWING telegram has been received from Vice-Consul at Philippopolis:—

"Imprisoned Agas were removed in (*sic*) a less uncomfortable [? barrack] yesterday, and are now better treated in every way."

No. 519.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 21.)

(No. 932.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October 20, 1878.*

SULTAN has given positive orders that all the formalities about reforms shall be concluded to-day, and has promised me that I shall receive answer by Wednesday or Thursday. I have every hope that, notwithstanding serious difficulties with which I have had to contend, but not on the part of the Sultan, the matter will now soon end favourably.

No. 520.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 21.)

(No. 934.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October 21, 1878.*

RUSSIAN Ambassador again stated to the Grand Vizier this morning that Russia would not evacuate Adrianople until three months after the definitive Treaty of Peace, and that she would hold her present positions until satisfactory arrangements were made with regard to property of Bulgarians who have left, and may leave, the country on the departure of the Russian army. I have suggested to Grand Vizier that he should communicate this to Count Zichy for Vienna.

No. 521.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 21.)

(No. 935.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October 21, 1878.*

GRAND VIZIER is anxious that Her Majesty's Government should, if possible, come to an agreement with French Government as to steps which the Porte should take with regard to civil administration of Eastern Roumelia, as no time should be lost in organizing gendarmerie and militia, and in taking other measures to execute Treaty of Berlin, otherwise Russia will allege as a pretext for not withdrawing the troops, that there is nothing to replace them for the maintenance of order. Grand Vizier evidently desires to name Governor, but is afraid that he will not be supported by France.

No. 522.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 21.)

(No. 936.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October 21, 1878.*

BY the LXth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, Porte cedes to Persia town and territory of Kotour as fixed by Anglo-Russian Commission. Grand Vizier has requested me to inform him of the line of frontier laid down by the Commission, as the Porte is not acquainted with it. Perhaps Sir A. Kemball may have what is required.

No. 523.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 21.)

(No. 175.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October 21, 1878.*

I HEAR privately that Count Schouvaloff has been summoned to Livadia. It is probable that General Stoletoff will arrive there from Cabul about the same time.

No. 524.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Morier.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 21, 1878, noon.*

I HAVE communicated substance of your letter privately to Lord Cranbrook, and will write to him officially, in that sense, as soon as I receive the despatch which the Chevalier d'Antas has been charged to give me. The matter would not present such grave difficulties if it lay wholly with Cabinet; but consent to Goa Railway depends on Council, which is a wholly independent body. I understand prospects of negotiations have improved.

No. 525.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond-Wolff.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 21, 1878, 3 P.M.*

IN reply to your telegram No. 35 of the 19th instant, remonstrance is of little value in any case, and of none at all, unless based on certain knowledge. Let me know if you get any absolute evidence of the presence of this large force; but otherwise take no notice of it.

No. 526.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Dering.

(No. 472. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 21, 1878.*

COUNT MUNSTER, alluding in the course of conversation to the proposition which was made by the German Government on the 2nd September as to the presentation by the Powers of a collective note to the Porte, calling its attention to its failure to carry out its obligations under the Treaty of Berlin, stated that Prince Bismarck was convinced that Her Majesty's Government were justified in their objections to that step.

His Excellency observed that the fact was that the communication in question had been made to Her Majesty's Government in somewhat too definite a manner owing to the absence at the time from Berlin of Prince Bismarck and to M. de Radowitz having failed fully to comprehend the nature of the instructions on the subject which he had received.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 527.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 70.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 21, 1878.*

I HAVE received your telegram No. 35 of the 19th instant, stating that from a recent Report of General Sir C. Dickson it would appear that the Russians have raised from 80,000 to 90,000 troops in Eastern Roumelia, and inquiring whether, in

view of this great increase of force, I had any instructions to give you; and, in reply, I have to state to you that I fear that remonstrances would in any case be of little avail, and of absolutely none unless we can base them upon well-ascertained facts.

It is possible that you or Lord Donoughmore may be able to obtain some reliable evidence of the presence of this large force. If so, I have to request that you will communicate it to me without delay; but, in the absence of such information, it would not serve any useful result to take further action in the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 528.

Sir J. Pauncefote to the Under Secretary of State for War.

(Secret.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 21, 1878.*

WITH reference to the correspondence noted in the margin, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit to you a copy of a letter which has been this day addressed to the Board of Admiralty, suggesting, for the reasons there stated, that instructions should be given to Rear-Admiral Sir J. Edmund Commerell to keep a close watch upon the district of Gallipoli and the lines of Bulair.

I am at the same time to request that, in laying this letter before Secretary-Colonel Stanley, you will point out to him that Captain Fife has been removed from Gallipoli, and that Lieutenant Chermside is now attached to Colonel Home's Staff on the Boundary Commission for tracing the Bulgarian frontiers.

I am to add, however, that Lord Salisbury is not aware that there is any immediate necessity to send a military officer from England to the Gallipoli peninsula previous to the time when Lieutenant Chermside will be at liberty to undertake that duty.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 529.

Sir J. Pauncefote to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Secret.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 21, 1878.*

THE information which has reached Her Majesty's Government from various quarters leads them to believe that, not only has the withdrawal been suspended of the Russian troops from the districts lying between the Sea of Marmora and the frontiers of Eastern Roumelia, but that the recent dispositions of their forces made by the Russian Generals are of a nature calculated to arouse suspicion as to their ulterior object.

I am directed, therefore, by the Marquis of Salisbury to call your attention to the correspondence marked in the margin, and to request that you will state to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that his Lordship is of opinion, should they see no objection, that instructions should be given, by telegraph, to Rear-Admiral Sir J. Edmund Commerell to keep a close watch upon the district of Gallipoli and the lines of Bulair, and to report immediately to the Admiralty, as well as to Sir G. Phipps Hornby, any facts which may come under his observation of a suspicious character.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 530.

Sir R. Wood to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 22.)

(No. 63.)
My Lord, *Paris, October 12, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to submit, herewith inclosed, a copy of my despatch to Her Majesty's Representative at the Porte, relative to the steps which M. Waddington has taken to obtain an explicit explanation from the Ottoman Government with regard to

the reasons which have induced the Sultan to invite General Khaïreddin to visit His Majesty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

Inclosure in No. 530.

Sir R. Wood to Sir A. H. Layard.

Tunis, October 10, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Excellency's despatch of the 24th September, acknowledging the receipt of my despatch of the 9th of the same month; and I beg to convey the expression of my thanks for the information which it has pleased your Excellency to give me with regard to the unusual distinction with which General Khaïreddin has been received, on his arrival at Constantinople, by His Majesty the Sultan.

I had ventured to state, in reporting the departure of the General, that a few years ago some of the French papers had accused him of having availed himself of his mission to Constantinople in 1871 to come to some understanding with the Porte for superseding the present ruling family of this Regency.

I am now confidentially informed that M. Waddington has asked the Ottoman Ambassador at Paris for explanations with reference to the object for which General Khaïreddin had received His Imperial Majesty's commands to visit him, and the reason of his distinguished reception, adding that he had instructed the French Representative at the Porte to ask for explicit explanations, and to protest beforehand against any changes that may be contemplated or any interference with the existing state of things.

In communicating to the Tunisian Minister the steps which M. Waddington has thought proper to take, M. Roustan, the French Chargé d'Affaires, has endeavoured, by specious arguments, to create alarm. He accuses General Khaïreddin of being an uncompromising adherent of Turkish policy in respect to this country, and of entertaining ambitious designs, in the execution of which he will be supported and encouraged by the Ottoman Government. To prevent their realization, M. Roustan offers the assistance and co-operation of France—mild and veiled terms for protectorate, which expression he could not employ without raising suspicion and frustrating the object which he seeks indirectly to obtain. He expects that, by adding to the apprehensions and fears of the Bey, and by rousing his angry feelings, his Highness may, in a moment of great alarm and indignation, throw himself into the arms of France, to save himself and family from expulsion and disgrace.

The Tunisian Minister intimated to M. Roustan that whatever might be the nature of General Khaïreddin's designs, the relations between the Porte and Tunis were regulated by the Sultan's Firman of 1871; that up to the present period its conditions have been loyally maintained, and that so long as the Suzerain made no attempt to alter them, there was no necessity whatever to change them. Should, however, the necessity ever arise, it would be then time enough for the Regent to decide the steps it would be expedient to take.

It was in anticipation of the line of conduct which my French colleague would pursue here, and of the nature of the representations he was likely to make to his Government with a view to engage its action in the matter, that I ventured to suggest that the Grand Vizier should address a friendly letter to the Regent, explaining the reasons of the Sultan's commands to the General to repair to Constantinople, and assuring him of His Majesty's high protection and gracious support; and your Excellency will permit me to express my sense of obligation for the readiness with which you have been pleased to communicate my suggestion to His Highness, who has made no difficulty about doing so.

This course appears the more urgent as there is no end to the intrigues that have been set on foot here to increase the misgivings of the Bey and of his Court. I am endeavouring to remove them, but as I have the reputation of being a supporter of Turkish views, my endeavours, unless aided by a frank and amicable explanation on the part of the Porte, may finally fail to have a due effect on the mind of the Regent and on that of his inexperienced counsellors, who are not always able to fathom the true motives which impel some of the foreign Agents to give advice tending to weaken or sever the ties between his Highness and his Suzerain.

The Regent has been told that, among the dangers in prospect for him, was the probable appointment of General Khaïreddin to the Governorship of the adjoining Pashalik of Tripoli, from whence he would incite the Arab tribes to revolt against the authority of His Highness.

As your Excellency may wish to see General Khaïreddin's "Essay on Reforms in Mussulman States," I have forwarded a copy under a separate cover.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

No. 531.

Sir R. Wood to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 22.)

(No. 64.)

My Lord,

Tunis, October 14, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report that, as my French colleague continues to comment on General Khaïreddin's visit to the Sultan in a manner calculated to create alarm, I have deemed it advisable to inform the Bey that the Grand Vizier has stated to Sir Austen Layard that the Sultan had no political object in inviting him, being only desirous of seeing so distinguished a Mussulman statesman. I begged of him to disregard the intrigues that were set on foot, and I endeavoured to explain to him their scope, which was no other than to weaken or sever the ties which bound him to his Suzerain. And I desired him to remember that he and his predecessors have had the assurance that, so long as they maintained their relations with the Porte, Her Majesty's Government would not allow it to interfere in any way prejudicial to the acquired and recognized rights of his family.

I found the Bey unusually agitated. He said that he did not care whether General Khaïreddin went or not to Constantinople; but that he felt greatly wounded that the commands of the Sultan should have been transmitted direct to one of his own servants instead of through him. He accused the General of being the cause of it, for, added His Highness, "I have been informed that he had sent 25,000 fr. to Sheik Zafar, the Sultan's Sheik, to use his influence with His Majesty to invite him to his capital by Iradé or Imperial Rescript."

Eastern Princes are suspicious, and it is evident from the excited manner in which he spoke that both his feelings and misgivings have been unnecessarily roused. His Highness declared, with much animation, that so long as he occupied the seat of State, he would not deliver up his country to France, Italy, or Great Britain, much less to Turkey.

It is proper I should observe that, from long intimacy, the Bey is in the habit of speaking with me without the least reserve or restraint, but always with much personal kindness, which affords me an occasion of either appeasing him or of removing his disagreeable impressions.

The Prime Minister, who was present at the interview, said that, as in two recent instances when General Khaïreddin had to visit Europe on account of his health, the French Representative had urged His Highness to send him him, lest he should proceed to Constantinople to create embarrassments, and had now, in opposition to his previous advice, counselled His Highness to allow him to proceed thither. He (the Minister) suspected that it was M. Roustan who, for purposes of his own, had suggested to the General to procure the Sultan's invitation to visit him through his friends at the Imperial Court.

I remarked that, if it was true that the mischief complained of was the work of M. Roustan to facilitate the execution of his secret views, in that case no serious attention should be paid to his efforts to produce mistrust and apprehensions, since the ground upon which he rested his arguments was of his own creation, and had, therefore, no real foundation.

The Bey concluded by saying that when Khaïreddin was his Prime Minister, he desired him to obtain for him the rank and title of Muchir—a title which the Sultan confers on the ruling Prince on his accession to the Government of the Regency—but that he had desisted from his request upon His Highness remarking to him that he could not be raised to so high a rank unless the Princes, his brothers, had the same honour conferred upon them. And His Highness added: "Were Khaïreddin to return with the rank of Muchir, I would not allow him to land until the Sultan empowered me to deprive him of his rank whenever I deemed it proper to do so."

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

No. 532.

Consul R. Reade to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 22.)

(No. 8. Political.) [B B.]

Rustchuk, October 15, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that four Russian Generals, whose head-quarters have hitherto been here, have just received orders to proceed at once, with the whole of their respective staffs, to Adrianople, and I have been informed by a Russian officer that they will leave this to-morrow.

The Russians here are at this moment mostly occupied with the establishment of several Tribunals, and the formation of the Bulgarian army.

I was present, by official invitation, on Thursday last, at the swearing-in and instalment of six Judges of the new Court of Appeal, and which was a pompous ceremony, performed by the Governor and the Bulgarian Archbishop, with all their retinues.

The new Commercial Tribunal is to be ready about the end of the month.

The soldiers are being enrolled from the Bulgarian families of the province, each having to furnish one or two of its available young men. There is no drawing of lots.

There appears to be great excitement amongst the Bulgars on the subject of Eastern Roumelia, which they all call Southern Bulgaria, and to the separation of which from what they call Northern Bulgaria they say they will never consent. In this they are warmly encouraged by the Russians. They even say that they are ready to fight in defence of this pretension.

I have further the honour to report that, by a Circular dated the 4th September, 1878, marked 2567, and published in the Bulgarian newspaper "Maritza," of the 15th September, the Governors are informed by the Imperial Commissioner that the official language for Bulgaria is to be the Bulgarian; and as in official communications, and also in common use, many words are used which were employed by the Turks and from the Turkish language, the Governors are directed to use, and to cause to be used, in all official communications the following words:—

For "Sandjak" the Russofied Latin word "Goubernia."
For "Mutessarif" the Russofied Latin word "Goubernator."
For "Caza" the Bulgarian word "Okroujhii."
For "Kaïmakam" the Russo-Bulgarian "Okroujen Natshalnik."
For "Nahia" the Russo-Bulgarian "Okolia."
For "Mudir" the Russo-Bulgarian "Okolen Natshalnik."
For "Azà" the Slav word "Starai."
For "Communkland" the Slav word "Mitnitza."
Duty of foreign goods to be called "Mito."
Duty on drinks, &c., to be called "Akcis" ("Excise" Russofied).

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. READE.

No. 533.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Sir J. Pauncefote.—(Received October 22.)

(Secret and Confidential.)

Admiralty, October 22, 1878.

Sir,

WITH reference to your letter of the 21st instant respecting the movements of the Russian troops, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, that a telegram (copy inclosed) was sent last night to Vice-Admiral Sir G. P. Hornby in accordance with the request contained in your letter.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 533.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Vice-Admiral Sir G. Hornby.

(Telegraphic.) *Admiralty, October* 21, 1878, 9 P.M.

GIVE directions to the Senior Officer at Gallipoli to keep close watch upon Gallipoli neighbourhood and Bulair lines, reporting immediately to Admiralty and to you any facts coming under his observations of suspicious character. If you consider advisable Rear-Admiral may return to Gallipoli in the "Agincourt." Acknowledge and state action taken.

No. 534.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 22.)

(No 937.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 21, 1878.

AUSTRIAN Ambassador informs me that he has made a conciliatory communication to Grand Vizier to-day from Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs, who has given assurances to Porte as to occupation of Bosnia, as to desire of Austria not to advance to Novi-Bazar unless absolutely necessary, and as to her determination to prevent future attacks on Turkey by Servia and Montenegro. As this conciliatory disposition appears to prevail at Vienna, could we not do something to bring about a good understanding between Austria and Porte? I am inclined to believe that the Sultan could be brought to accept a general declaration of the temporary or provisional character of Austrian occupation instead of insisting on a term being fixed.

No. 535.

Colonel Home to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, October* 22, 1878.

COMMISSION constituted; has met twice. Begin work at Silistria 2nd proximo. Turkish [Commissioner?] President at Constantinople. Fresh election when Commission leaves here. Commissioners, except French, had no powers, only letters of credence, from their Ambassadors to the Porte. Russian Ambassador's letter specially reserves Russian Government's right to direct the proceedings of Commission if Russian [objection?] was overruled by majority.

I have made a declaration reserving to Her Majesty's Government similar rights. Majority of Commission to decide in every case. Commission will act on opinion of majority. Opinion of minority will be entered on the Protocol, and Governments will decide question.

Commission telegraphed to Servian Commission authorizing demarcation of Servian-Bulgarian frontier, and to Roumanian Government, inviting Roumanians to attend. On the whole satisfactory. German and Russian pull together.

No. 536.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 22, 1878, 1:15 P.M.

ADMIRALTY wish the following to be communicated to Mr. Smith:—

"In compliance with request from the Foreign Office, Admiral Hornby has been instructed to direct Senior Officer at Gallipoli to keep a close watch upon that neighbourhood and Bulair lines, reporting immediately any circumstances of a suspicious character. If considered advisable, he was to order Admiral Commerell to return to Gallipoli in 'Agincourt.'"

No. 537.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 22, 1878, 2·15 P.M.*

PLEASE take an opportunity of asking French Minister for Foreign Affairs whether France will co-operate with Her Majesty's Government in carrying out objects mentioned in Layard's telegram repeated to you; also in supporting nomination of Rustem Pasha as Governor of Eastern Roumelia.

No. 538.

Sir J. Pauncefote to Mr. Lingen.

(Very Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 22, 1878.*

COLONEL HOME, R.E., who has been appointed under Article XI of the Treaty of Berlin as British Commissioner for the demarcation of the frontiers of Bulgaria, has referred home for instructions as to the best means of employing the staff which accompanied him to Constantinople during the winter months.

In order that you may have fully before you the nature of the operations assigned to the Commission of which Colonel Home is a member, and the difficulties by which it is surrounded, I transmit herewith copies of two Reports which have been received from that officer, together with a copy of a letter accompanied by a Memorandum from General Sir Lintorn Simmons,* whose opinion had been invited upon some of the matters treated in Colonel Home's despatches.

Colonel Home has been informed by telegraph that in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government the survey of the Balkan frontier must be carefully traced under the surveillance of English officers.

They are not, however, inclined to undertake the sole expense of making the survey between Roumania and Bulgaria, although they would not refuse their aid to the Roumanian Government, if desired.

On political grounds it is considered undesirable that the delimitation of Southern Roumelia should be pressed at this moment.

In Colonel Home's opinion there are two ways in which the officers and men comprising his staff might be advantageously employed during the ensuing months:—

1. He proposes that one officer and two draftsmen should remain in Constantinople to perfect the works executed in the field, and that they should also be responsible for the charge of surveying instruments, tents, &c.

2. He further suggests that three officers and two soldiers might be told off to reconnoitre the country extending from Alexandretta to the Euphrates and Tigris, and as far north as Kurput.

Should these suggestions be favourably received Colonel Home would himself return to his official duties in England until such time as his presence in Turkey as British Commissioner was again required.

I am to request that you will lay this correspondence before the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury for their consideration, and that you will state to them that Lord Salisbury is of opinion that important advantages might be obtained if Colonel Home's suggestions are carried out.

I am further to request that, if the Board of Treasury concur with Lord Salisbury they will enable him to give the necessary instructions to Colonel Home, with as little delay as possible, and that they will sanction the expenditure which must be incurred.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

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* Nos. 440, 441, and 443

No. 539.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 23.)

(No. 78. Political.) [B.B.]

My Lord, *Scutari, October 7, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the Turkish prisoners of war who were in Montenegro have been set at liberty and have arrived here.

The Chief of the Staff and some of his subordinates here, having been appointed by the Porte as Commissioners for the delimitation of the new Montenegrin frontiers, have refused the duty, as they feel it would be impossible for them to carry it through under the present conditions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 540.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 23.)

(No. 79. Political.) [B.B.]

My Lord, *Scutari, October 9, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the inhabitants, both Mahommedan and Christian, who fled from the districts of Kraïa and Antivari when the Montenegrins invaded them, have applied to me to assist them to return to their countries.

The Montenegrins have sent back several of the refugees who attempted to reoccupy their homes, and the authorities here also appear to wish to throw difficulties in the way of their return.

Should these unfortunate people be prevented from gathering their maize and olive crops now ripening, they will be subjected to the greatest privations during this winter, especially as the Turkish authorities have ceased supplying them with the means of living, and they have none of their own.

The refugees earnestly trust that England will cause the XXXth Article of the Treaty of Berlin to be enforced before it becomes too late.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 541.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 23.)

(No. 80. Political.) [B.B.]

My Lord, *Scutari, October 10, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the General commanding here has been ordered by the Porte to withdraw his troops from Podgoritza and Spuz, without allowing the inhabitants to find out that the movement is about to be effected. Hussein Pasha has telegraphed back to explain that it is impossible to carry out so important a military operation in secret.

Yesterday nearly 200 Turkish soldiers reached this from the Herzegovina, having traversed Montenegro, where they were disarmed by the Prince's orders.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 542.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 23.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, October 22, 1878.*

RUSSIA is trying hard to induce Roumania to enter into new engagements on the subject of future passage of Russian force through Roumanian [group wrong] of the Dobrudscha prior to the surrender of that province. Negotiations still going on. The

principal Ministers decline to accept any extension of right of passage beyond term assigned by Treaty.

An early and satisfactory settlement of Roumanian and Bulgarian frontier, of which there appears to be some prospect, might oblige Russia to give up possession of Dobrudscha at once.

This Government has sent Great Powers a Circular, repeating this time in a still more formal manner their engagement to carry out fully Article XLIV of the Treaty.

No. 543.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 23.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, October 22, 1878.*

FIFTEEN Circassian families, consisting of 250 individuals, sent by Turkish Government from Smyrna and Salonica, arrived a few days ago at Piræus, and left next day for their destination. They were afterwards wrecked on Greek coast, and unable to proceed.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 544.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 23.)

(No. 698.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, October 22, 1878.*

COLONEL HOME has at my request sent out three officers to examine state of affairs in country evacuated by Russians. They report no massacres upon the Christians by Mussulmans, but only isolated cases of murder and robbery, or acts of brigandage such as might be expected on the retreat of an army of occupation.

Captain Ardagh, who is just returned from a careful investigation in the district of Rodosto, reports the murder in different places of seven [Greek ?] shepherds, of which fair proof was given him, and the wounding and robbery of others; in most instances those accused of these have been arrested by Turkish authorities; five Mussulmans have also been killed. There is nothing to compare with deliberate massacre of Mahommedans and destruction of their property by Christians during Russian occupation. In Rodosto district no flight of Christians has taken place. Acting Consul Calvert reports that Russian Agents have been inviting Bulgarians to leave the country and Greeks to remain. I have sent your Lordship a despatch from him on the subject. British officers agree with Mr. Calvert in stating that Turkish authorities have done all that is possible for the protection of life and property.

No. 545.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 23.)

(No. 699.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, October 22, 1878.*

ACCORDING to information furnished by Colonel Home's Staff, military line now occupied by Russians passes from Media by Visa, Karishtaran, Hiraboli, near Melgara, and by Ipsala to Enos.

No. 546.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 23.)

(No. 258. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 23, 1878.*

ROUMANIAN Minister tells me that Russia is strongly urging his Government to conclude a military Convention for the passage of troops through the Principality for a

term of two years, to commence on the expiration of the date fixed by Treaty of Berlin.

He says the Russian army in Roumelia and Bulgaria is to be maintained during winter at a strength not less than 170,000 men.

According to reports received by the Austrian Government, it amounts at present to fully 200,000 men.

No. 547.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 23.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, October 23, 1878.*

MAJOR WILSON telegraphs that Lieutenant Ross has safely returned from Grepolac, and that at noon to-morrow, the 24th, the Commission proceeds to Vranja.

No. 548.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1297.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 23, 1878.*

YOUR Excellency will have received from Mr. Consul-General Eldridge despatches, of which he has forwarded copies to this Office, reporting the favourable reception with which Rustem Pasha has met on his return to the Lebanon, and the fictitious nature of the petitions which have been got up against him.

The return of Rustem Pasha, and his hearty acceptance by the population, mark the complete failure of the agitation which the Maronite Bishop Bafros endeavoured to promote.

The satisfactory check given to the machinations of this individual and of the Maronite clergy, is largely due to the energy and skill which were displayed throughout by Mr. Consul Eldridge.

I desire that your Excellency will inform him that his conduct has met with the full approval of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 549.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 552.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 23, 1878.*

I APPROVE the language held by your Excellency to Count Andrassy on the subject of the intermediate administration of Eastern Roumelia, as reported in your despatch No. 727 of the 12th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 550.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 24.)

(No. 105. Political.) [B.B.]
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, October 9, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a translation of the list of concessions made by the Imperial Commissioner to the Cretan Christians, which was omitted to be included in Inclosure No. 3 of my despatch No. 104, Political, of the 7th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure in No. 550.

Modifications apportées par son Excellence le Commissaire Impérial aux demandes présentées par MM. les Délégués de l'Assemblée Générale Créloise.

Article Préliminaire.

LE Règlement Organique complété par les modifications ci-dessous indiquées sera pleinement appliqué en Crète et n'aura aucun préjudice à subir par la Constitution.

1. Le Gouverneur-Général sera nommé d'après le Règlement Organique, mais il sera maintenu dans ses fonctions pour une période de cinq ans.

2. L'Assemblée Générale sera composée comme il suit: les districts contenant une population également distribuée entre les deux religions enverront à l'Assemblée deux Députés Chrétiens et deux Musulmans. Dans les districts où l'un des éléments est en majorité, il sera élu trois Députés de l'élément en majorité, et un de celui en minorité. Enfin, dans les districts dont tous les habitants appartiennent à la même religion, tous les quatre Députés seront de la religion de leurs électeurs, conformément à la liste des districts électoraux d'après laquelle il y aura quarante-neuf Chrétiens et trente et un Musulmans.

3. La Session annuelle de l'Assemblée Générale sera comme par le passé, de quarante jours. Si cependant les travaux l'exigent, la Session de la première année pourrait être prolongée de dix jours. Les séances seront publiques. Elle aura le droit de s'occuper tout de suite à compléter la législation Ottomane aujourd'hui en vigueur, en élaborant la procédure civile et pénale et la loi communale qui font encore défaut, qu'elle soumettra à approbation du Gouvernement Impérial. La Sublime Porte sanctionnera les lois, pourvu qu'elles ne portent pas atteinte à ses droits souverains, et aux principes de la législation Ottomane.

4. Les divisions administratives de l'île restent comme par le passé. En dehors du Vali et des Mutessarifs qui seront désignés conformément à la Loi Organique, il y aura cinq Caïmacams Musulmans nommés (1) à Kenourio et Pyrghio-tissa, (2) Monofatsi, (3) Pedeada, (4) Sitia, et (5) Hierapetra, et les sept autres Chrétiens.

5. Les Conseils Administratifs seront élus et composés comme auparavant, mais les employés du Gouvernement n'en feraient pas partie à l'avenir.

6. Le pouvoir judiciaire sera complète et indépendant du pouvoir exécutif. Il y aura dans les kazas un Juge de Paix. Dans les chefs-lieux des Mutessarifliks il sera institué une Cour de Première Instance (Medjlis Teniez), et à Candie une Cour d'Appel (Divan Teniez). Les Présidents et membres de toutes ces Cours, composées moitié Musulmans et moitié Chrétiens, les Procureurs-Généraux et les Juges Instructeurs doivent être sujets Ottomans munis d'un diplôme reconnu par le Ministère Impérial de Justice, et nommés par le Gouvernement Impérial. Les Jugements de ces Tribunaux seront soumis en dernier ressort à la Cour de Cassation à Constantinople.

7. Le service administratif sera simplifié par la suppression des postes des Mouavins et de celui d'un des Muchavers. Le Muchavér restant sera Chrétien quand le Vali est Musulman et *vice versâ*.

8. Les deux langues seront également en usage à tous les Bureaux de l'Administration. Toutefois vu que Chrétiens et Musulmans de l'île se servent exclusivement de la langue Grecque et ne comprennent guère qu'elle, les discussions de l'Assemblée Générale et des Tribunaux se feront en Grec.

9. En dehors du Vali, tous les employés seront nommés d'après la règle observée jusqu'à présent. Les indigènes toutefois, qui auraient des qualités requises, auront la préférence.

10. Pour la formation du corps de gendarmerie de l'Ile de Crète, le Gouvernement acceptera, conformément au Règlement, les Chrétiens et Musulmans indigènes qui en feraient la demande; et tant que leur insuffisance n'est pas constatée, on n'aura pas recours aux autres habitants de l'Empire. Les officiers subalternes seront choisis dans le corps susmentionné d'après le Règlement en vigueur et ne viendraient pas de Constantinople. Les Chefs de bataillon et les Colonels seront désignés par Iradé Impérial.

11. L'Assemblée Générale pourra discuter et soumettre à l'appréciation du Gouvernement Impérial un mode de taxation présentant sur la dîme des avantages reels pour le Trésor Impérial et la population.

12. On tâchera d'introduire une économie convenable dans les dépenses. Les dépenses de l'armée régulière ne seront pas portées à la charge du budget de l'île, et

les droits de Douane et ceux sur le sel et le tabac n'y figureront pas. Il en est de même des revenus et dépenses des fondations pieuses (Evkaf) administrés par le Gouvernement Général, et portées jusqu'à présent dans le budget du vilayet, et qui dorénavant sera séparément administrées. Déduction faite des dépenses de l'administration locale, l'excédant du revenu net sera divisé par moitié au Trésor et l'autre moitié sera affectée aux travaux d'utilité publique telles que (1) l'organisation des prisons; (2) à l'institution des écoles; (3) à la formation des hôpitaux civils; (4) à la construction et réparation des routes et des ports. Ces travaux seront discutés et votés par l'Assemblée. Dans chaque Session l'Assemblée aura le droit d'examiner si les recettes et dépenses ont été effectuées selon les prescriptions et prévisions budgétaires.

13. Le cours forcé du papier-monnaie dans l'île sera aboli. Les appointements des employés seront également payés en espèces.

14. L'immigration dans l'Ile de Crète est libre. Le Gouvernement ne prendra pas l'initiative de colonisation.

15. Il sera permis de fonder des sociétés pour l'avancement de l'instruction publique, des imprimeries et des journaux conformément aux lois de l'Empire y relatives.

16. La concession accordée par l'Article 2 découle de la Constitution. Les Ordonnances Ministériels (*διατάγματα*) de nature à porter atteinte à l'indépendance des Tribunaux aux lois en vigueur, et à la Loi Organique, seront considérés comme nuls et non-avenus.

(*a.*) Une amnistie générale sera proclamée. Les impôts arriérés ne seront pas exigés des agriculteurs, mais les fermiers et percepteurs des dîmes, débiteurs de l'Etat, seront tenus de payer leurs dettes.

(*b.*) Les habitants garderont leurs armes; mais il leur sera défendu de les porter sans permission de l'autorité.

(*c.*) Un arrangement définitif sera trouvé pour les dettes antérieures à l'insurrection de 1866 afin de soulager les débiteurs indigents.

(*d.*) Le prosélytisme restera interdit. Chacun sera libre d'embrasser la religion qu'il préfère, mais selon la mesure en vigueur depuis quelques années adoptée à la suite d'un accord intervenu entre Musulmans et Chrétiens, il ne sera pas permis aux personnes converties de rester dans l'île, et ils seront libres d'aller où bon leur semble.

(*e.*) Par rapport à la demande concernant la restitution des biens confisqués, l'autorité prendra en considération les Ordonnances y relatives.

(*f.*) Le règlement des banques des orphelins Chrétiens, soumis à l'approbation de la Sublime Porte de l'année 1870 par les cinq démogéronties de l'île, sera sanctionné.

(*g.*) Des bureaux des hypothèques des notariats seront créés dans l'île.

Que des titres des propriétés (hodjets) soient enregistrés dans des bureaux des notaires au fur et à mesure que les ventes ont lieu. Des Fénagats (titres des propriétés appartenant à l'Efkaf) en feront exception.

No. 551.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 24.)

(No. 106. Political.)

My Lord, *Canea, Crete, October* 15, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Turkish wooden despatch vessel "Levaid" arrived from Constantinople on the 8th instant, bringing the domestic establishment of his Highness Midhat Pasha, which consisted of nearly fifty persons. The same vessel is now under steam ready to return to the Bosphorus with the Imperial Commissioner's Aide-de-camp, who is the bearer of the instrument conveying new privileges to the Cretans which is now on the point of being signed.

On the 9th instant the wooden corvette "Sinope" returned from Rhodes, whither she had gone on the 30th ultimo.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 552.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 24.)

(No. 107. Political.) [B.B.]

My Lord, *Canea, Crete, July* 16, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, copies of two despatches which I have addressed to his Excellency Sir Austen Layard, (1) reporting the progress of the negotiations with the Christian Delegates, and the final signature by them of the Charter granted to the Cretans, but which requires ratifying by the Porte; and (2) describing the state of the interior of the island since the return of the Mussulman refugees.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 1 in No. 552.

Consul Sandwith to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Canea, Crete, October* 14, 1878.

WHEN it became known that the Imperial Commissioner had granted the greater part of the demands made by the Delegates of the National Assembly, a general feeling of satisfaction was awakened, and the impression prevailed that the Cretan question was after all to receive a peaceful solution. Under the influence of this impression I had the honour on the 8th instant to send this telegram to your Excellency:—

"Following sent to Foreign Office:—

"The Cretan difficulty appears likely soon to be settled."

On the following morning the Delegates who had been for the last two or three days in consultation with the General Assembly, returned and told me that while they had every reason to be content with the concessions which had been already made, there were some of their demands still unsatisfied which they considered they had a right to insist upon, and of those they gave me a list. A glance at them sufficed to show me that four or five of them were captious or extravagant, and I had no difficulty in convincing them of the impolicy of communicating them to Ghazi Mukhtar Pasha. For an opportunity of considering the rest, I requested them to meet me at his Excellency the Governor-General's, the aid of whose judgment and fuller local knowledge I was anxious to obtain. In his presence the rest of their demands were briefly gone over, and more explicit explanations of the wishes of the General Assembly elicited. The same afternoon I communicated them to his Excellency Ghazi Mukhtar Pasha, who promised carefully to consider them and to meet the Governor-General and myself on the morrow, before giving his answer. The following morning on going to the konak, I found Costaki Pasha already there, and his Excellency, whose mind is singularly fertile in expedients had, in a brief conference with the Commissioner, made proposals for the settlement of all the questions yet pending save one, and the latter had found them acceptable. In order to lose no time his Excellency the Vali invited the Delegates to meet him and myself at once, when we gave them the answers of the Commissioner to their last demands. The first regarded redistribution of the seats in the General Assembly, the Delegates desiring that the original proposal of twenty-nine Mussulman and fifty-one Christian members should be adhered to as more fairly representing the relative proportions of the two elements of the population, particularly in two of the districts concerned. This demand was not granted, and the numbers stand at thirty-one Mussulmans and forty-nine Christians.

Their next demand was that their right to propose changes in laws of a purely local interest, such as those relating to cattle-lifting, injury done to crops, &c., should be more fully recognized. This was accorded on the condition that a vote on such subjects should command a majority of two-thirds of the Assembly, as a guarantee would thereby be afforded that the laws proposed would not be detrimental to the interests of the Mussulmans. The Delegates had also desired that the old system of the election of Judges by the people should be reverted to. This demand I had vainly sought to prevent them from making, since besides its intrinsic defects, which a long experience had plainly demonstrated, the maintenance of so many Law Courts was eminently costly and out of all proportion to the wants of the country. They replied that they were as convinced as I was of the vicious nature of the

principle involved in the people electing their own Judges, but that the people themselves, whose mouth-piece they were, had insisted on demanding it, and their only hope was that at the first meeting of the General Assembly a reform in this respect might be carried out. If, they said, they could assure the people that a Christian Governor would always be appointed to Crete, they would renounce their right to choose their own Judges, but they feared that if hereafter a Mussulman was appointed Governor-General, he might turn out all the existing Judges. This is a most improbable supposition; but it affords another proof of the inveterate suspicion entertained by the Cretans of their rulers. Ahmed Mukhtar Pasha, however, had granted their wishes in this respect, and had besides consented that the tribe of Mourvins should be retained, the Mussulmans themselves having requested it. The island will thus continue to be hampered with these useless and expensive parasites of the administrative system. We were also able to inform the Delegates that the Commissioner had agreed to modify the Article on the organization of the gendarmerie so as to admit of the superior officers up to the rank of Major being chosen by the Governor-General, either from Christians or Mussulmans, provided they had served their time in the lower grades of the service. One great objection made by the Christians against volunteering for this force will thus be obviated, as they had alleged that they were badly treated by their superior officers of a different race and religion. The request had also been made that the phrase made use of in the last clause, "Article 2 découle de la Constitution," should be suppressed, and it has accordingly been omitted.

The Delegates expressed considerable satisfaction at so much having already been conceded, but they drew attention to the fact that, as the tithes alone did not suffice for the total civil expenditure of the island, it was absolutely necessary that the Customs duties should also be allotted them, and even with that additional income it would not be possible to meet the current expenses. I pointed out to them that the Custom-house revenue throughout the Empire might be considered, to a certain extent, mortgaged to the foreign creditors of the Porte, that there was besides the garrison force to be provided for, and that I could not but consider that the Cretans themselves were responsible for the cost involved in keeping up such overgrown administrative and judicial systems. They then asked that half at least of the Customs dues should be allowed to flow into the local Treasury, the sum thus obtained not sufficing to ward off the evil of an annual deficit, since with the whole of the Customs duties an annual deficit has always declared itself. The gross produce of the Customs in Crete during the years 1872, 1873, and 1874, which were years of normal prosperity, stood at figures ranging between 40,000 Turkish pounds and 50,000 Turkish pounds annually, from which, working expenses being deducted, the net revenue will barely yield 40,000 Turkish pounds a-year.

As half of this sum might be held sufficient to guarantee the foreign creditor, his Excellency the Vali and myself undertook to recommend that the other half might be allotted for the local expenditure. On the following morning, the 11th instant, we brought this subject before the Imperial Commissioner, who, after some difficulty, consented that, in case there was a deficit, the revenue of the Custom-house might be drawn upon to half its amount to meet that deficit. That day the final reduction of the terms in which the concessions accorded to the Cretans were conveyed was made in Turkish by Ghazi Mukhtar Pasha, Costaki Pasha, and Salim Effendi; and the following morning an official translation in French was handed to me by the Governor's Secretary, with a request that I would show it to the Delegates, two of whom read French. It was not till the next day, the 13th instant, that the official Greek translation was communicated to the latter, who were summoned by the Commissioner to receive it, I also being invited to attend. After the document had been read aloud, it was universally remarked that the heading which had prefaced the French translation was omitted, and the Commissioner, while giving no satisfactory explanation of the omission, declined to supply it, adding that the Delegates themselves, when they affixed their signatures to the instrument, might make any explanatory addition they liked. This heading, which had been inserted without my being consulted, stood thus:—

"Après réunion de leurs Excellences Ghazi Mukhtar Pasha, du Gouverneur-Général de l'île, de Salim Effendi, ainsi que de Mr. Sandwith, Consul de Sa Majesté Britannique à la Canée, il a été communiqué aux Délégués Chrétiens, en réponse à leurs demandes, les modifications suivantes, qui ont été arrêtées d'un commun accord, et qui consistent des articles suivants."

The paragraph is clearly open to objection, inasmuch as it fails to state in what capacity I had been acting, but it seems to imply that all the four persons named

therein had equal powers. This had at first escaped my attention, which had been engrossed by the articles of more essential import which followed. When the Delegates drew my attention to the omission, I contented myself by remarking that it was a matter of public notoriety that the concessions enumerated had been accorded by his Excellency the Commissioner, and that I did not see that the omission in question could in any way invalidate them. I was careful, moreover, to let them know that so long as I did not sign the document myself, which I had not been authorized to do, Her Majesty's Government could not be responsible for its provisions being carried out. The Commissioner himself has since suppressed the objectionable passage in the French translation, and I have been supplied with a revised copy of it, in which also two mistranslations and a few slight errors which had disfigured the first have been rectified. A copy of this latter I have now the honour to inclose. The Delegates then proceeded to ask from what source the arrears of pay due to the zaptiehs and civil functionaries were to be supplied, as they alone would swallow up more than a whole year's revenue. It was impossible for the Commissioner to give a satisfactory answer to this question on the spot, and it is one fraught with future financial embarrassment to the island. It is well known that the revenue of Crete, the Customs included, has not for many years sufficed to cover the civil expenditure, and it is a delusion, therefore, to look for any balance to be expended on public works.

The Delegates then took their leave in order to carry their new Charter to the General Assembly, and promising to return on the morrow. I gave them the parting counsel not to allow any consideration to defer them from signing the instrument, and not to risk the loss of the advantages already gained from a vain notion that by holding out they might gain yet more.

15th October.—Late last night I received an invitation from his Excellency the Governor-General to meet the Imperial Commissioner and the Delegates at his house at 6 o'clock this morning. It was nearly 8 before the proceedings began, when it appeared that the Delegates desired to append to the document containing the list of concessions accorded to them the following wishes:—

1. That a clear half of the receipts of the Custom-house should be recognized as forming part of the annual budget of the island, instead of the revenue from that source being left as a gift from the Government uncertain in amount.

2. That the jurisdiction of the Christian Demo-gerondias be defined in the Organic Law.

3. That the debts owed by the farmers of tithes to the local Treasury be finally condoned.

4. That the concessions now to be granted to the Cretans be guaranteed to them by the English Government.

The Commissioner made some objection to the latter request being embodied in the instrument, thinking it better that a separate petition in that sense should be addressed to me. As it would take some time for the above requests to be drawn up, and it was essential that this despatch should be sent off by the steamer which leaves at noonday, I was obliged to quit the meeting before the Delegates attached their signatures.

Ghazi Mukhtar Pasha is sending an Aide-de-camp, in a special steamer, the "Fevaid," bearing the new Cretan Charter for ratification by the Porte.

It is greatly to be desired that the Porte will lose not a moment in confirming the Charter, in order that a Firman to that effect may be published without delay.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

P.S.—11 A.M. By a note from one of the Delegates, I learn that only two requests have been added to the document awaiting their signature, viz.—1. The one already mentioned about the Custom-house receipts; and, 2, that the arrears of pay due to the local employés may not remain as a charge on the budget. Article (*d*), on the subject of proselytism, has been entirely suppressed. The instrument thus modified has been signed.

T. B. S.

Inclosure 2 in No. 552.

Modifications et Compléments introduits dans le Règlement Organique de l'Ile de Crète de 1868.

Article 1. LA Loi Organique de l'Ile de Crète sera en vigueur comme par le passé avec les suivantes modifications et compléments. Il est évident que la Constitution ne pourra pas annuler les dispositions de cette loi.

Art. 2. Le Gouverneur-Général sera nommé suivant la Loi Organique. La durée de ses fonctions sera fixée pour une période de cinq ans.

Art. 3. L'Assemblée Générale sera composée de quatre-vingt membres dont les quarante-neuf Chrétiens et les trente et un Musulmans, de la manière suivante:—

	Musulmans.	Chrétiens.
Ville de la Canée	3	1
Kydhonia, c'est-à-dire Top Alti avec Alikianon ..	1	3
Kissamo	1	3
Selino	1	3
Sfakia	..	4
Apocorona	1	3
Ay-Vassilli, surnommé Stambol Kouï ..	1	3
Ville de Réthymo	3	1
District de Réthymo	1	3
Amari	1	3
Milopotamo	1	3
Ville de Candie	3	1
Mutévisi et Temenos	1	3
Pédia	1	3
Monofouki et Riso	3	1
Kenouria et Pirjotissa	2	2
Mirambello et Lachit	1	3
Sitia	2	2
Yerapetra	2	2
Viano et partie de Riso	2	2
	31	49

Art. 4. La Session de l'Assemblée Générale sera comme par le passé de quarante jours. Si cependant ses travaux l'exigent, la Session de cette seule première année pourra être prolongée de vingt jours. Les séances seront publiques.

L'Assemblée Générale aura le droit de procéder tout de suite à l'élaboration de la procédure civile et pénale qui font encore défaut dans la législation Ottomane en vigueur, ainsi que de la Loi Communale, et les soumettre à l'approbation de la Sublime Porte, qui sanctionnera ces lois si elles ne portent pas atteinte aux droits du Gouvernement Impérial et aux principes de la législation de l'Empire.

Si dans la suite il y aurait à faire des modifications de nature à suppléer à l'insuffisance des règlements en vigueur réclamés par les besoins d'un intérêt purement local, l'Assemblée Générale par vote et décision de la majorité de deux tiers, aura le droit de soumettre ces modifications à l'approbation et à la sanction de la Sublime Porte.

La majorité de deux tiers ne concerne que le dernier paragraphe de cet Article.

Art. 5. Les Caïmacams Chrétiens seront plus nombreux que des Musulmans, selon les besoins locaux.

Art. 6. Les Conseils Administratifs seront composés comme auparavant, mais les employés du Gouvernement n'en feraient pas partie à l'avenir excepté le Vali, le Mutessarif et les Caïmacams qui président ces Conseils.

Art. 7. Le pouvoir judiciaire serait indépendant du pouvoir exécutif. Les Tribunaux restent comme par le passé. Si toutefois l'Assemblée Générale pourrait étudier un projet plus avantageux pour l'économie et la distribution de la justice, elle pourrait le soumettre à l'approbation de la Sublime Porte.

Art. 8. Dorénavant le Gouverneur-Général aura un Moucharir qui sera Chrétien lorsque le Vali est Musulman et *vice versâ*.

Art. 9. Le service des Bureaux en général dans l'île s'effectuera dans les deux langues, ainsi que les Mazbatas et les procès-verbaux des Conseils Administratifs et des Tribunaux seront rédigés dans ces deux langues. Comme cependant les habitants parlent ordinairement la langue Grecque, les discussions dans l'Assemblée Générale et les Tribunaux se feront en Grec.

Art. 10. En dehors du Vali, tous les employés aussi seront nommés d'après le

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Règlement en vigueur. Les indigènes toutefois qui auraient les qualités réquises auront la préférence.

Art. 11. Si l'Assemblée Générale trouvera un mode de taxation pour les dîmes d'une manière plus avantageux pour le Gouvernement et les habitants, elle pourra le soumettre à la sanction et à l'approbation de la Sublime Porte.

Art. 12. Pour la formation du corps de la gendarmerie de l'Ile de Crète, le Gouvernement acceptera, conformément aux Règlements du Gouvernement Impérial, les indigènes Chrétiens et Musulmans qui en feraient la demande, et tant que leur insuffisance n'est point constatée on n'aura pas recours aux autres habitants de l'Empire.

Le Colonel de la gendarmerie sera nommé de Constantinople. Quand aux autres officiers, ils seront élus par le Gouvernement Général de l'île parmi les Chrétiens et les Musulmans d'après les Règlements, et ils seront de même nommés de Constantinople.

Une caisse de retraite sera instituée pour les officiers et soldats de la gendarmerie, et un Règlement spécial sera rédigé à cet effet.

Art. 13. On tâchera d'introduire une économie convenable dans les dépenses. Les frais de l'armée régulière ne seront pas portés à la charge du budget de l'île, et les droits de la Douane et ceux sur les sels et le tabac n'y figureront pas.

Il en est de même des revenus et des dépenses des effkafs (fondations pieuses) administrés par le Gouvernement Général et portés jusqu'à présent dans le budget du vilayet, et qui dorénavant seront séparément administrés. Déduction faite des dépenses de l'administration locale, l'excédant des revenus nets sera divisé par moitié au Trésor et l'autre moitié sera affectée aux travaux d'utilité publique, tels qu'en premier lieu, l'organisation des prisons, en second lieu, à l'institution des écoles, en troisième lieu à la fondation des hôpitaux civils, quatrièmement à la construction et réparation des routes, ports, etc.

Ces travaux seront discutés et votés par l'Assemblée Générale. Dans chaque Session, l'Assemblée aura le droit d'examiner si les recettes et les dépenses ont été effectuées selon les prescriptions et prévisions budgétaires.

Dans le cas que ces revenus ne pourraient pas couvrir les dépenses, et que le Gouvernement, après avoir épuisé tous les efforts possibles ne pourrait pas trouver un moyen pour augmenter les revenus, et que les appointements ne pourraient pas être payés, afin de couvrir le déficit provenant de ces appointements, le Gouvernement Impérial donnera une somme d'argent s'élevant jusqu'à la moitié des revenus de la Douane de l'année dont le budget resterait ouvert.

Art. 14. Le papier-monnaie ne sera pas en circulation dans l'île. Les appointements des employés seront payés en espèces.

Art. 15. Il sera permis de fonder des sociétés pour l'avancement de l'instruction publique, des imprimeries et des journaux conformément aux lois de l'Empire y relatives.

Si des Ordonnances Ministérielles arrivent contraires à l'indépendance des Tribunaux, aux lois en vigueur, et à la Loi Organique, ces Ordonnances ne seront pas mises en exécution.

Articles Supplémentaires.

(a.) Une amnestie générale sera proclamée. Les impôts arriérés ne seront pas exigés des agriculteurs; quant aux fermiers et percepteurs des dîmes débiteurs, il sera procédé suivant les ordres précédemment transmis.

(b.) Les habitants garderont leurs armes; mais il leur serait défendu de les porter sans permission de l'autorité.

(c.) Un arrangement définitif serait trouvé pour les dettes antérieures à l'insurrection de 1866 afin de faciliter les débiteurs indigents.

(d.) Le prosélytisme reste interdit; chacun est libre d'embrasser la religion qu'il préfère, mais d'après la mésure en vigueur adoptée depuis quelque temps par le Gouvernement à la suite d'un accord intervenu entre Musulmans et Chrétiens, il ne sera pas permis aux convertis de rester dans l'île, et ils seront libres d'aller où bon leur semble.

(e.) Indépendamment des immeubles qui ont été saisis provisoirement à la suite de l'insurrection de 1866, s'il y a aussi des propriétés de cette catégorie vendues, l'autorité locale s'adressera à la Sublime Porte pour faire tout ce qui est réquis.

(f.) Le Règlement des banques des orphelins Chrétiens présenté par les cinq Demo-gerondies de l'île après avoir été examiné ici, sera soumis à la Sublime Porte pour être sanctionné.

(g.) Des bureaux des hypothèques et de notariat seront créés dans l'île. Ces bureaux rédigeront parmi les autres documents tous les titres de propriété excepté ceux de Feragato.

Les modifications et compléments qui ont été décidés pour être introduit dans la Loi Organique de 1868 (25 Ramazan, 1284) consistant en seize Articles et sept dispositions provisoires, comme ci-dessus indiqués, ont été communiqués à MM. les Délégués de l'Assemblée Générale de la population Chrétienne de l'Ile de Crète sous la réserve de l'approbation et de la sanction de la Sublime Porte.

La Canée, le $\frac{\text{7 Septembre}}{\text{12 Octobre}}$, 1878

Inclosure 3 in No. 552.

Consul Sandwith to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Canea, Crete, October* 14, 1878.

SINCE I had the honour of telegraphing to your Excellency the news of the return of the Mussulman fugitives to their homes, nothing until to-day has transpired to mar the good effect which that movement has produced. Nearly everywhere they have been well received, and in some places sheep have been killed and public rejoicings made to welcome the wanderers back. In one village in Selino some houses were burnt down the day before the Mussulman inhabitants returned, but this is an instance happily standing alone. Nevertheless, it cannot be denied that the country is in a very unsettled state, that a mild type of anarchy is prevalent, and now that a Government, recognized by all, seems on the eve of being established, the insurrectionary authorities, which have hitherto preserved some sort of order, are said to have lost much of their former hold on the people.

Unfortunately, to-day tidings has arrived of the murder of two Mussulmans in a distant part of the Sandjak of Rethymo, the Governor of which has telegraphed to the Vali that the murder has caused much excitement in that town, and that reprisals are feared.

It is Costaki Pasha's intention, either immediately, or on the final ratification of the new Charter, to make a tour through the island for the purpose of setting up some sort of administrative machinery, the want of which makes itself every day more and more felt.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 553.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 24.)

(No. 137. Political.) [B.B.]

My Lord, *Trebizond, October* 11, 1878.

ACCORDING to all accounts a serious outbreak has taken place in the Dersim district, but having received no written communication from that region, I can only report the rumours which are afloat.

It is stated that about four weeks ago the Kurds, headed by a certain Ahmed Pasha, a Kurd himself, surprised in the night a Turkish advanced camp of the Erzinghian army occupied by three or four battalions.

These troops, which did not number more than 800 or 1,000 men, were taken prisoners, and the three mountain guns, the numerous rifles, munitions, and provisions in the camp carried away.

The Kurds retreated in their mountain fastnesses, and occupy a strong position, a defile called Merdjan Boghaz, the exact position of which I am unable to identify, but which is in the chain of the Anti-Taurus.

When my informants left Erzinghian, nearly three weeks ago, Ismaïl Pasha had already despatched twelve battalions against the Kurds, but these battalions did not number more than 300 to 350 men each, and more troops had been ordered to take the field.

I have lately heard from Youssuf Pasha that the total of the battalions sent against the Kurds number twenty-four.

My informants had seen, before their departure, wounded Turkish soldiers

returning from the field of action, who stated that the position occupied by the Kurds was almost impregnable, and that it would require many men and a long time to subdue the rebellion.

The number of the Kurds who have revolted is not known here, but it being stated that their object is to become independent, it may be presumed that the whole tribe in Dersim, amounting to about 30,000 souls, is in open revolt.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 554.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 24.)

(No. 138. Political.) [B.B.]

Trebizond, October 11, 1878.

My Lord,

TRANQUILLITY seems to prevail at Erzeroum itself, although it is said that one or two murders have been perpetrated on the road between that town and Persia; but even there, if we except the robberies committed by the Kurds, there are hitherto no disturbances of a general character.

Mr. Cole writes from Erzeroum, under date of 2nd October, as follows:—Mousa Pasha is working with great diligence for good order in this place, and has succeeded in a remarkable manner, even during Bairam. He had the dram-shops closed on Saturday. I am rather pleased with the appearance of the man, though he is a Circassian."

Hadji Hussein Pasha, whose arrival at Erzeroum was mentioned in inclosure No. 1 of my despatch No. 132 of the 30th ultimo, seems to have been followed soon after by Mousa Pasha, and it is rumoured that Ismail Pasha himself is there now.

It is said that martial law has been proclaimed at Erzeroum, by order of the Porte, and that two battalions have been dispatched to protect the Armenians at Hodovitchoor against further attacks from the Mussulmans.

The perpetrators of the outrage in that village are diligently searched for by order of Yussuf Pasha in the district of Rijeh, to which they are believed to belong.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 555.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 24.)

(No. 139. Political.) [B.B.]

Trebizond, October 12, 1878.

My Lord,

I RECEIVE this moment, by a special courier from Erzeroum, several letters which Mr. Cole had written to me at different times, but which he had no opportunity to forward before this.

Though they refer to past occurrences I consider necessary to communicate to your Lordship abstracts of the letters in question, as showing the gradual improvement which has taken place in Armenia since the return there of the Turkish authorities.

I have also the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, copy of a letter addressed to Mr. Parmelee by Mr. Knapp, American missionary at Bitlis, and referring to the condition of that part of Anatolia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure 1 in No. 555.

Mr. Cole to Vice-Consul Biliotti.

(Extract.) *Erzeroum, September* 23, 1878.

CHRISTIANS in this city are receiving treatment at the hands of Turks, and not a few of them soldiers, yes, and some of them officers, too, every day, that would not be given a dog.

A few days since a priest of Dinaricorub village was robbed, beaten, money taken, and his wife raped before his eyes. When he comes to the city for complaint a fiendish Turk follows him, and complains that the priest assaulted him (and who would not try to protect the honour of his family), and first of all the priest must enter the prison for this.

In Tsaytavogh village the Turks rape a woman 80 years old.

But why speak of the cases in the villages when they are so numerous right here in the city, that I should need to give a daily letter to cover them here; those which take place before our own eyes as it were.

A day or two since one of our people, an aged man, was most shamefully treated in return for politeness on his part. He volunteered water and coffee to some soldiers that were sitting near his door. One of them, when about to drink the water, claimed it had a bad smell. "Ghiaour," he said, "you mean to poison us, do you?" The man replied by saying, "Are we your enemies that should wish that. How can we live among you if you are to treat us thus; give the water to me and let me drink first." He did not give it, but cursing, and would have beaten the old man had not others interfered.

A drunken Armenian was singing a song in the street. An old Turkish woman did not like the noise, perhaps, and began to curse the man. For his replying in similar language the woman's son came out and hit him in the back of the head with an axe. He is now with his badly-wounded head laying prison life.

Last thing to say. One of our people sells 9*l.* worth of things to a captain, cannot make change. The officer says you have money to make change, and begins to beat him, curse, and so on, soon another captain joins with the other in cursing. Thus the man was cursed and beaten by the leaders of those that are to introduce reforms.

I might go on multiplying cases, but I am sick of it, till we can have some assurance besides the Turks.

Inclosure 2 in No 555.

Mr. Cole to Vice-Consul Biliotti.

(Extract.) *Erzeroum, September* 26, 1878.

YESTERDAY some twenty of the leading men from villages in this plain, four of them priests, crowded in upon us, with tears in their eyes, begging that we do something to protect them.

One of the priests was that from Dinaricorub I spoke of in the first sheet. As he was an ecclesiastic they did not finally put him into prison, and he does not say that his wife was outraged, but says that is not a matter to be talked of, indicating that, though it be true, for the honour of his family he would not wish to admit it.

In another village, Djroulir, by name, another woman was outraged. Their church was fired upon.

At Tsaytavogh village, in some part of plain, a leading Turk, Denirkaitsi Ali Bey, beat an Armenian, Apel, and then exacts 300 piastres, money, and says shall kill him.

In Tarcoln village, a leading Turk threatens the Christians, beats some, and declares Government has no power over him in the night.

In Ooghdarsoi a few soldiers, gathering up the people's (not the Government) arms whatever can find, come across three villagers that have on soldiers' garments. They require these three soldiers at their hands, saying, "You have killed us many soldiers."

In Norshen village, Mirh Ali's men threatening, beating Christians, taking all they wish. The villagers now here with a petition. This Mirh Ali and his men are, and have been for a long time, notorious brigands in the region of Kars, and have

been the terror of the people there. Had I time I could tell you of their conduct, as I have heard it from the people this way, before they were driven out by the Russians. Poor villagers in the Baibourt and Erzinghan regions know with sorrow what their conduct has been. They were the terror of the people even in this city. Part of them stopped at Han, near us, and we know their conduct. Once they attempted to force one of our houses for a residence; and had I not, with good courage and a loud voice, been promptly on the ground, they might have succeeded. . . .

Soldiers at the Persian gate, above us, kidnapped a poor woman (and companions beaten) that was starting out for Kars, with travelling companions, in search of her lost husband. Woman not yet found.

Four officers and two attendants eat some 50 piastres worth at restaurant. They rise to go without paying anything. The man for presenting a claim for money of their Highnesses (!) began at once to receive a beating.

In the affray the chief Pasha Moosa happens along, and asks what it means. The officers pretend they have paid. Upon this some Turkish neighbours take the Armenian's part; that he tells the truth; they know him to be a good man, &c. Meanwhile the officers had made their escape, and I do not learn that anything has been done. . . .

Inclosure 3 in No. 555.

Mr. Cole to Vice-Consul Biliotti.

Erzeroum, September 30, 1878.

(Extract.)

MOUSA PASHA is making desperate efforts to keep order, and for the past few days has succeeded very well. There has been no serious disturbance for that length of time in this city. As for the country round about, the roads are unsafe, so not many come and go, and we do not hear so much from the provinces here and there.

Had a letter the other day from the Khanoos, in reply to a sort of Consular attack which I made on him for his not governing better. He claims to be doing all in his power now; and, from the latest news at hands of our people, a few weeks since, there seems some truth in what he says.

Two men, at least, have been killed on the plain east of us. It seems to have been a robbery, however, I judge. Mousa Pasha told me on Saturday he had sent 130 soldiers there, and hopes this plain will be quiet soon. Mousa Pasha appears quite well.

Inclosure 4 in No. 555.

Mr. Cole to Vice-Consul Biliotti.

Erzeroum, October 7, 1878.

(Extract.)

I HAVE written so much already to you to come to your hands at the same time with this, that I must not add much more. . . . . .

As you will have learned through M. Parmelee this city has come into very good quiet and safety. We do not hear of special cases from the villages, only in general terms of oppression. I have my letters of an earlier date that will come to hand with this, will serve no other purpose than to show you what has been in the past, though we are happy to report something better now through the great vigilance of Mousa Pasha. We shall see how long it will last. . . . .

I shall report to you anything of importance.

Inclosure 5 in No. 555.

Extract from Letter from Reverend — Knapp to Mr. Parmelee.

MR. KNAPP, Missionary at Bitlis, writes from that town, under date of the 17th September, 1878, as follows:—

"We have not had any fears from the Kurds, although since it was known that the Russians were to evacuate Erzeroum, they have been very troublesome, plundering villages and caravans, so that it is as unsafe to travel as a year ago. I suppose it will continue so until the hand of English rule is felt.

"The other day they killed a Turk on this mountain a half hour above us, who had money with him and a Winchester rifle.

"A large Persian caravan of hundreds of pilgrims on their way to Mecca had loads of new carpets robbed by the Kurds.

"Just now I hear a caravan from Sert was plundered, and a large caravan from Aleppo has arrived at Diarbeki, but does not come on here from fear of the Kurds.

"They are much more troublesome below us than here. They plundered Taghoot, a village ten hours north of us, of forty cows, and another village of twelve oxen, stole a man's horse in another village; and thus daily we hear accounts of their depredations, and so far we have not heard of the Government making a single attempt at putting them down."

No. 556.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 24.)

(No. 804.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October* 19, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith two articles from the "Golos" (written probably under official inspiration). The first refers to an audience which the Russian Ambassador had of the Sultan to expose the danger to which the Christian populations are subjected on the retirement of the Russian army, and to require the adoption of energetic measures for their protection. It observes that as England has deemed it requisite to reproach the Porte with rejecting the proposed Convention with Austria in regard to Bosnia and Herzegovina, there can be no plausible reason for criticising the precautions that Russia may think it necessary to adopt.

The second article, in referring to the execution of the Treaty of Berlin, and to the inability of the Porte to protect the Bulgarians from Mussulman fanaticism on the withdrawal of the Russian troops, observes that Russia cannot abandon the Christians who can only look to her for protection and support, and that consequently the resolution (as reported by the "Politische Correspondenz"), not to evacuate Adrianople until three months after the signature of a definitive Treaty with Turkey must meet with approval.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 556.

Extracts from the "Agence Russe."

L'OCCUPATION RUSSE EN TURQUIE.—ON lit dans le "Golos":—

"On a télégraphié de Constantinople à Vienne que l'Ambassadeur de Russie, dans une audience qu'il a obtenue du Sultan, a réclamé que des mesures énergiques soient ordonnées pour sauvegarder la sécurité des Chrétiens dans les localités qui seraient privées de la protection des troupes Russes. Cette nouvelle ne présente rien d'inattendu après ce qui s'est passé dans quelques parties du territoire Turc que l'armée Russe avait évacuées. On ne pouvait supposer que le Représentant de la Russie resterait indifférent au sort des Chrétiens qui allaient se trouver de nouveau exposés à la vengeance des Musulmans. Tout au contraire, il faut souhaiter que le Prince Labanoff ne se paie pas de vaines promesses et tienne à s'assurer de garanties sérieuses. Ce qui nécessairement imprimera à la politique Russe une énergie dont aucune Puissance ne saurait s'étonner; l'Angleterre même aurait fort mauvaise grâce à attendre de notre part une autre attitude. D'ailleurs les dernières nouvelles représentent le Marquis de Salisbury comme fort irrité de ce que la Porte se soit soustraite à la Convention proposée par l'Autriche. Or, le rejet de cette Convention n'expose pas l'Europe aux dangers qui surgiraient du refus que la Porte pourrait opposer à la réalisation des mesures propres de prémunir les Chrétiens contre les représailles des Musulmans. La Bosnie et l'Herzégovine sont aux mains de l'Autriche de sorte qu'elle est à même de

prendre en toute liberté des mesures de pacification; le seul moyen de faire régner l'ordre dans les localités que l'armée Russe occupe serait donc de prolonger l'occupation, fut-ce à l'encontre des décisions du Congrès. Puisque le Gouvernement Anglais trouve opportun de reprocher à la Porte le rejet qu'elle oppose à la Convention proposée relativement à la Bosnie et à l'Herzégovine, elle n'aurait aucune raison plausible de critiquer les précautions que de notre côté nous croirions utile de prendre. Les journaux Anglais montrent que le dernier Conseil des Ministres n'a abouti a aucune solution par rapport aux affaires d'Afghanistan. Le tout s'est borné à approuver les mesures prises par le Vice-Roi des Indes. L'ouverture des hostilités est remise au printemps prochain, sous le prétexte que d'ici-là le temps suffira à exciter contre l'Emir Shir Ali des mécontentements qui provoqueront son renversement. Le 'Times' avoue candidement ces honnêtes projets."

Le "Golos" revient sur ce sujet dans un deuxième article dont voici le résumé:—

"Les journaux ont parlé des difficultés qui pourraient surgir par rapport à l'exécution du Traité de Berlin dans le cas où la Porte se trouverait impuissante à protéger les Bulgares contre les excès des Musulmans, lorsque les troupes Russes se seront retirées. Et puis, la prolongation de l'occupation nécessiterait des sacrifices énormes qui seraient aggravés par l'état d'incertitude où l'on se trouve vis-à-vis de l'Empire Ottoman. D'ailleurs, en restant en Bulgarie et en Roumélie au delà du terme fixé par le Traité, la Russie se trouverait exposée à de nouvelles attaques de la part des Puissances. Il y a là une impasse dont il est difficile de sortir et cependant la Russie ne peut abandonner des Chrétiens qui n'ont de soutien à espérer que d'elle. C'est pourquoi on ne peut faire autrement que de reconnaître l'opportunité de la résolution que la 'Politische Correspondenz' prête à la Russie de n'évacuer Andrinople que trois mois après que la signature d'un Traité définitif de la part de la Turquie aura assuré contre brûle éventualité dangereuse les populations Chrétiennes des Balkans.

"En attendant que la Turquie se pénètre de cette nécessité nul ne saurait faire à la Russie un crime de ce qu'elle cherche à se prémunir contre toute surprise."

No. 557.

Le A. A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 24.)

(No. 865.) *St. Petersburgh, October* 19, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith an article from the "Golos" on the relations between Austria and Turkey.

This article contests that the Treaty of Berlin provided for the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Austria, and affirms the right of Turkey to have the question elucidated.

It further remarks that the Congress thought it necessary to render the occupation dependent on an agreement between Austria and Turkey, and it approves the refusal of the Porte to agree to the Convention on the terms offered. It concludes by stating, in strong terms, that "it cannot be a matter of surprise that the Sultan should energetically refuse the support of a Power which, without reason, had violated the territory of a friendly State to commit the most horrible acts."

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 557.

Extract from the "Agence Russe."

L'AUTRICHE ET LA TURQUIE. — Le "Golos" publie un long article sur les rapports de la Turquie et de l'Autriche, et termine ainsi:—

"Il ne ressort aucunement du Traité de Berlin que la Bosnie et l'Herzégovine doivent être toujours annexées à l'Autriche. Il n'y a aucune raison plausible d'interpréter de cette manière les documents qui ont servi de bases aux résolutions du Congrès. Par conséquent il faut reconnaître que le Gouvernement Ottoman est fondé

à réclamer que la situation de ces deux provinces soit élucidée. Car, si le Congrès avait eu l'idée de livrer la Bosnie et l'Herzégovine à l'Autriche, il ne se fut pas contenté de stipuler que les dites provinces seraient occupées et administrées par l'Autriche. Et la preuve, c'est que cette occupation même le Congrès a cru devoir la subordonner à un accord à conclure entre les Gouvernements de Vienne et de Constantinople. En partant de ce point de vue, on ne saurait contester la validité des bases proposées par la Porte relativement à la Convention Austro-Turque. Les droits suzeraines du Sultan avaient et doivent être respectés par l'Autriche, si celle-ci ne prétend ressusciter la politique des conquêtes qui se trouve en opposition avec l'esprit et les tendances du dix-neuvième siècle. On ne se représente pas comment l'Autriche pourrait déposséder un Etat avec lequel elle conserve des relations pacifiques, un Etat pour laquelle la Hongrie manifeste des sympathies si ardentes. La chose est d'autant plus inadmissible que le Comte Andrassy, qui est l'âme de la politique de Vienne, est un Hongrois, et qu'il suffirait de gratter le Hongrois pour y trouver un peu de Turc. On se refuse à croire qu'un procédé aussi déloyal puisse être employé de la part des Magyars qui commandent en ce moment à Vienne, eux dont les sentiments chevaleresques ont été si souvent exaltés. La Porte a donc eu raison de se dédire de la Convention dans les termes où on la lui offrait. Néanmoins, l'Autriche ne s'est pas arrêtée devant ce refus, et a poursuivi sa politique. . . . Après cela il est impossible de s'étonner que le Sultan ait refusé énergiquement le concours d'une Puissance qui, sans que rien ne l'y autorise, a violé le territoire d'un Etat ami pour y perpétrer des attentats les plus horribles."

No. 558.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 24.)

(No. 866.) *St. Petersburgh, October* 19, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Mr. Plunkett's despatch No. 805, of the 24th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose herewith copy of a "note verbale" which I have received from the Imperial Foreign Department, stating that Hadji Arif Agha had been condemned to death by the Military Court at Philippopolis, but that this punishment had been commuted.

The Ministry is not aware of the ulterior dispositions of General Todleben, but asserts, in the language already used by Baron Osten Sacken to Mr. Plunkett, that the Commander-in-chief is incapable of pronouncing otherwise than in a spirit of impartiality and of perfect justice.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 558.

Note Verbale.

EN réponse à la communication de l'Ambassade Britannique, en date du 22 Août, 1878, le Ministre Impérial croit devoir informer la dite Ambassade que le nommé Hadji Arif Agha a été jugé et condamné à mort par la Cour Martiale de Philippopoli, mais que le Commandant-en-chef de l'armée active à commué la peine.

Les dispositions ultérieures du Général Todleben ne sont pas connues au Ministère, mais il est certain que le Commandant-en-chef ne saurait se prononcer autrement que dans un esprit d'impartialité et de parfaite justice.

No. 559.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October 24.*)

(No. 942.)
(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, October 23, 1878.

FOLLOWING received from Vice-Consul at [Philippopolis?]:—

"Dondoukoff, with all his administrative staff, leaves to-day for Sofia. He takes Shaban and Arif Aga with him. They were sent on a-head last night, still in irons. General Stalbin remains in charge of the Government here."

No. 560.

Major Gordon to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October 24.*)

(Telegraphic.)

Pera, October 24, 1878.

AT preliminary meeting Monday Turkish Colonel presented as Commissioner. Official meeting fixed for Tuesday put off till Wednesday; now *sine die*, because Turk, having no credentials, did not attend. Unless Commission sit soon, little prospect of commencement of work this year.

No. 561.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret.)

Foreign Office, October 24, 1878, P.M.

IN reply to your telegram No. 937 of the 21st instant, from communications I have had with Austrian Representative I do not think success probable. If a favourable opportunity occurs I will try.

No. 562.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1316.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, October 24, 1878.

IN your telegram No. 937 of the 21st instant, your Excellency suggests that, as a conciliatory disposition appears now to exist at Vienna, it might be possible to do something towards bringing about a good understanding between the Austro-Hungarian Government and the Porte.

I will not fail to exert my good offices with this object, should a favourable opportunity occur, but the communications which I have recently had with the Austro-Hungarian Chargé d'Affaires in this country do not encourage me to hope for a successful result.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 563.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1324.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, October 24, 1878.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your Excellency's information, a translation of a note* which I have received from Count Münster announcing the step taken by the German Government to nominate officers to represent the Imperial Government on the Commissions for regulating the boundaries of Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia, of Servia, and of Montenegro, as well as on the Consular Commission provided for in Article VI of the Treaty of Berlin.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

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* No.

No. 564.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 555.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, October 24, 1878.

I GATHER from your Excellency's despatch No. 744 of the 17th instant, that you are acquainted with the contents of the answer returned by the Austro-Hungarian Government to the Circular note in which the Porte accused the army of occupation in Bosnia of wanton cruelty towards the Mussulman population, and I consequently have not considered it necessary to furnish you with a copy of the paper, which has now been placed in my hands by Count Deym.

Her Majesty's Government never doubted that the reports of excesses which had been made to the Sultan and his Government were devoid of foundation, and they felt certain that the Austro-Hungarian troops had in all respects fully maintained their reputation for humanity; but they have been none the less gratified at perusing the complete and satisfactory refutation which the Government have been able to oppose to the rash accusations brought by the Porte.

I informed you in my despatch No. 515 of the 8th instant, that when the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires communicated the Circular to me, I pointed out to him the inadequacy of the evidence in which the representations were based, and declined on the part of Her Majesty's Government, to make any representations on the subject to the Austro-Hungarian Government, who could not, supposing even the statements to be true, have been held responsible for excesses of which they could have had no cognizance. Since that conversation I have again spoken to him on the subject, and have renewed the expression of the regret of Her Majesty's Government that statements so injurious and so destitute of trustworthy authentication, should have received the sanction of the Sultan's Government.

I should wish your Excellency to communicate the contents of this despatch to Count Andrassy.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 565.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Corbett.

(No. 206.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, October 24, 1878.

SOME days ago M. Gennadius called upon me to inquire what view was taken by Her Majesty's Government of the request for mediation presented by him on the 18th September, and the measures which Her Majesty's Government were prepared to adopt in respect to it.

I informed him of the action which it was understood the French Government intended to take, stating that, as the proposition recorded in the Treaty of Berlin had been submitted to the Congress by the French Plenipotentiary, it was natural that any joint action of the Powers should be initiated by France. I at the same time informed him that Her Majesty's Government could not accept the interpretation which M. Delyanni had put upon the XXIVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin; and that I had communicated with you in that sense.

With respect to the question of policy, I said that Her Majesty's Government were quite ready, in accordance with the stipulations of the Treaty, to join in any mediation which it might seem to the Powers to be useful or opportune to offer. I did not, however, conceal from him that I expected no advantageous result from such a measure at the present time. The example of Bosnia and Albania had adequately shown that the consent of the Porte was not sufficient to procure the cession of territory in which a Mussulman population was predominant. The wishes of Her Majesty's Government were precisely those which we had stated to the Porte before the Congress of Berlin, and had joined in expressing on that occasion. But I reminded M. Gennadius that I had told him at that time, and not unfrequently since, that I did not believe that any of the Great Powers would resort to force for the purpose of procuring the cession which the Greeks desired.

Persuasion, therefore, in some form or other, being the only weapon available, it would obviously be used with far greater chances of success, if an interval were suffered to elapse during which the present excitement among the Mahommedan races

would gradually calm down. Any effort on the part of Greece to enforce the recommendation of the Powers by military measures would probably bring about a general state of war throughout the whole of the Balkan peninsula, from which even the Kingdom of Greece itself might not emerge without disaster.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 566.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 74.) *Foreign Office, October 24, 1878.*

Sir,

I HAVE had under my consideration your despatch No. 55 of the 9th instant, in which you revert to the assertion made by the Russian Commissioner as to the continued validity of the Treaty of San Stefano in Eastern Roumelia.

In reply, I have to state to you that, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, it must be assumed that in all cases where the Treaties of San Stefano and that of Berlin deal with the same subject matter, the former Treaty is superseded, and cannot be regarded as binding on the Porte. In this category must be placed all matters affecting the territory included in the Bulgaria of the Treaty of San Stefano.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 567.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 73.) *Foreign Office, October 24, 1878.*

Sir,

I HAVE to state to you that I entirely concur in the arguments contained in the Memorandum, a copy of which is inclosed with your despatch No. 50 of the 5th instant, in regard to the question of the intermediate administration of the Province of Eastern Roumelia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 568.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Gould.

(No. 35.) *Foreign Office, October 24, 1878.*

Sir,

I APPROVE your having called the attention of M. Ristic to the fact that Servian troops still hold a considerable extent of Turkish territory, as reported in your telegram of the 16th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 569.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Colonel Home.

(No. 30.) *Foreign Office, October 24, 1878.*

Sir,

I HAVE to acquaint you that I have been informed by the German Ambassador at this Court that the Imperial Government have nominated Colonel von Scherf and Captain von Krahmer, of the Grand General Staff, as their Representatives on the Commission for tracing the boundaries between Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 570.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Palgrave.

(No. 7.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 24, 1878.*

I HAVE to acquaint you that I have been informed by the German Ambassador at this Court that the Imperial Government will probably select Herr Brüning, their Consul at Beyrout, as German Member of the Consular Commission provided for by Article VI of the Treaty of Berlin.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 571.

Major Wilson, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 5.)

My Lord, *Nisch, October 6, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that, when at Belgrade, I was given to understand that the transport required by the Commission would be supplied by the Servian Government, and that the members of the Commission, as well as their staff and servants, would probably be quartered on the inhabitants of the several villages near the frontier. As I did not wish to place myself under any monetary obligation to the Servian Government, and there would have been much difficulty in making arrangements for the transport service without its assistance, I suggested to Mr. Gould that an arrangement might possibly be made for the repayment of any expense incurred by the Servian Government on account of the British section of the Commission. Mr. Gould informed me that the Minister for War consented to an arrangement of this kind, and that an account would be furnished on the termination of the labours of the Commission.

I find now that transport of every kind will have to be obtained from the Servian Government, and that quarters have been provided for us in private houses in Nisch. I have therefore written again to Mr. Gould on the subject, feeling sure that your Lordship would not wish the Servian Government to be put to any expense on account of accommodation and transport required by the British section of the Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON, *Major, R.E.,*
Her Majesty's Commissioner.

No. 572.

Major Wilson, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 6. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Nisch, October 10, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that, before leaving Belgrade, I heard that the Servian troops were still in advance of the frontier laid down by the Treaty of Berlin. I was, however, unwilling to believe in the truth of the rumour as, on the occasion of my presentation to Prince Milan, His Highness informed Mr. Gould that his troops had been withdrawn, and that, with the exception of some small advanced posts at certain points, they were now on the Servian side of the frontier.

I heard similar reports on my way to Nisch, and on the 5th instant, when the members of the Commission paid an official visit to General Protich, Chief of the Staff, he showed them a copy of the Austrian Staff map, on which the line held by the Servians at the termination of the war was coloured. General Protich, in the course of conversation, mentioned that the troops had only been withdrawn from the districts east of Mitrovica and Pristina about three or four weeks ago, or about the date of the expected arrival of the Commissioners at Belgrade. General Protich said that the Servian troops were still in occupation of the district in advance of Vranja, shown on his map to be nearly conterminous with the boundary of Servia first proposed in Congress; he confessed, however, that the frontier, as described in the

Treaty of Berlin, was quite clear, and that it was evident that, at that particular point, the Servians were in advance of their proper boundary.

I forward herewith a tracing showing approximately the line colored on General Protich's map, according to the recollection of Lieutenant Ross of Bladensburg and myself. I hear that in other places the troops are slightly in advance of the frontier, but hope in a few days to have more definite information from Lieutenant Ross of Bladensburg, who left for Vranja yesterday.

I have thought it right to bring these matters to your Lordship's notice, as they will explain the disturbances which have taken place on the frontier during the last few months and have been the cause of much loss of life on both sides.

The boundary laid down by the Berlin Treaty is very clearly defined, and that portion of it conterminous with the boundary of the old Sandjak of Nisch well known. There was thus no excuse for the prolonged occupation of the district in advance by Servian troops. I am of opinion that, if the troops had been at once withdrawn within the proper line of frontier, few, if any, disturbances would have arisen, as no provocation would then have been given to the Albanian population, who naturally resented the continued occupation of their country during the harvest season.

I would add that the occupation by Servian troops of ground beyond the frontier, though contrary to the Treaty of Berlin, will probably facilitate the work of the Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON, *Major, R.E.*,
Her Majesty's Commissioner.

Inclosure in No. 572.

Tracing showing the Line of Servian Advanced Posts.

No. 573.

Major Wilson, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 7.) *Nisch, October 10, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit notes herewith of the proceedings at three meetings of the Commission, on the 5th, 7th, and 8th October, drawn up immediately after those meetings by Lieutenant Ross of Bladensburg, together with copies of the official records of those meetings. As no Turkish Commissioner was present, the meetings were merely for the purpose of exchanging views and making arrangements to facilitate the actual work of the Commission after the arrival of the Turkish Commissioner.

I am unable at present to give any information as to the probable date of the termination of the labours of the Commission, but I understand that it will hardly be possible to work in the field after the 30th November. If the Turkish Commissioner arrives soon, and the present fine weather continues, I trust we may be able to finish the most important portions of the boundary this season; had he met us at Nisch on the 5th instant, the entire boundary might have been completed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON, *Major, R.E.*,
Her Majesty's Commissioner.

Inclosure 1 in No. 573.

Note of an Informal Meeting of the Servian Boundary Commission, held at Nisch, October 5, 1878, by Lieutenant Ross of Bladensburg, Coldstream Guards.

Present:

M. Aubaret (France), *President*;
Colonel Baron Kaulbars (Russia);
Lieutenant-Colonel Gola (Italy);
Major C. W. Wilson, C.B. (Great Britain);
Major Billemek (Austria);
Major von Alten (Germany);
Colonel Jovanovich (Servia).

Colonel Kaulbars stated that he had received two telegrams from his Government to the same purport, informing him that he might proceed to the delimitation of the new Servo-Bulgarian frontier; also that Russia sanctioned the Boundary Commission commencing operations without the co-operation of the Turkish Commissioner, if there was a unanimity of opinion on this point in the Commission.

Major Wilson read to the Commission the purport of a telegram received by him from Lord Salisbury, through Mr. Gould, which stated that as the Treaty of Berlin had decided that the whole Bulgarian frontier should be settled by one Commission, it was not permissable for another Commission to perform a part of the task without a formal consent of all the Powers. Also that the British Commissioner was instructed not to proceed to any operation of delimitation without his Turkish colleague.

A discussion arose upon what would be considered "the formal consent of the Powers," and the President asked the various members whether their statements that they had received the sanction of their Governments to proceed to the Servo-Bulgarian frontier could be accepted as this formal consent.

Major von Alten was uncertain whether he could still reckon on the permission given to him by his Government, since leave was granted subject to an unanimous opinion in the Commission, and that was not so now since the Government of Great Britain had withheld its consent; he had, however, written fully to Berlin, and deferred his answer until he received a reply.

Colonel Kaulbars did not seem to think that his liberty of action on this point was vitiated by the telegram received by Major Wilson.

Major Billemek had not yet received an answer.

Colonel Gola and *M. Aubaret* both stated that they would take upon themselves the responsibility of tracing the Servo-Bulgarian frontier, and were sure that their Governments would not disown their acts.

It having, however, become clear that nothing could be done for the present on account of the absence of the Turkish Commissioner, and the refusal on the part of the Government of Great Britain to allow its Commissioner to act without him, *Major Wilson* proposed that a preliminary survey or sketch of the important points on the frontier should be made.

Colonel Kaulbars, approving of that course, suggested that Lieutenant-Colonel Michkovitch and Lieutenant Ross of Bladensburg, Assistant Commissioners for Servia and Great Britain, should draw up a proposal to embody Major Wilson's idea in detail, and should present it to the Commissioners as soon as possible.

Inclosure 2 in No. 573.

Note of an Informal Meeting of the Servian Boundary Commission (Turkish Commissioner being absent), held at Nisch, October 7, 1878.

The President read a note from Lieutenant-Colonel Michkovitch and Lieutenant Ross of Bladensburg which informed the Commissioners that those officers were ready to execute sketches of Vranja showing the Karpina, Planina, and of Prepolac, and were ready to commence work on the 10th instant.

Colonel Gola thought that a sketch of Kamilug would also be useful; but the majority were in favour of the two places above named.

Most of the Commissioners considered that it was necessary to go first to Vranja, and wished that the two officers sent by the Commission should execute their work together. Major Wilson, however, attached a greater importance to Prepolac, and proposed that Lieutenant Ross of Bladensburg and the English non-commissioned officers should go that place whilst Lieutenant-Colonel Miehkovitch and the Russian topographer might proceed to Vranja to sketch in the position at that place. The Commissioners, however, having stated their wish that Lieutenant-Colonel Miehkovitch and Lieutenant Ross of Bladensburg should be together, it was agreed that those officers should first go to Vranja, point out the limits of the sketch to be made by the Russian topographer and the Servian topographer, then that they should go to Prepolac with the English non-commissioned officers, and that Lieutenant Ross of Bladensburg should make a sketch of that place.

The limits of the Vranja sketch were then laid down on the map by the Commission (see Inclosure V), care being taken to assert that the sketch should only be made in localities occupied by Servian troops at that moment, and that on no account should an escort be pushed forward to cover the topographers.

The Servian Commissioner presented a sketch of the new frontier in two sheets (one on a scale $\frac{1}{50000}$, the other on a scale of $\frac{1}{100000}$), executed by Servian officers. In these sketches Kanhug was shown to the west of its position on the Austrian Staff map; Marica Planina shown in the valley of the Lab, where Kapaonik Gora is marked on the Austrian map; and Prepolac on the southern, instead of the northern, slope of the mountain.

Major Wilson requested the President to read that portion of Protocol No. 19 which stated that "toutes les désignations de lieux ont été prises sur la carte de l'Etat-Major Autrichien," and said that if any doubt should arise as to the proper location of these places he considered the Austrian Staff map should be followed.

A short discussion arose, but no decision was arrived at.

Inclosure 3 in No. 573.

Note of an Informal Meeting of the Servian Boundary Commission (Turkish Commissioner being absent), held at Nisch, October 8, 1878.

The President stated that on the arrival of the Turkish Commissioner the whole Commission would be constituted. He considered himself up to the present as merely provisionally in his office as President. He would resign his appointment on the arrival of his Turkish colleague, and the Commission would then proceed to elect definitively a President.

Major Wilson informed his colleagues that he had telegraphed to the British Government, asking whether the consent of the Powers could be obtained to the delimitation of the Servo-Bulgarian frontier by the Servian Commission on the arrival of the Turkish Commissioner.

The proceedings of the meeting of the 7th instant (Inclosure V) were read over and approved, after two additions had been made to them, on the recommendation of Major Wilson, viz.:—

"1. That the understanding that no surveying should take place if there were any danger, and that the Servian troops were not to be pushed forward beyond their present position, should apply to Prepolac as well as to Vranja.

"2. That in case circumstances should arise which would prevent Lieutenant-Colonel Miehkovitch and Lieutenant Ross of Bladensburg from performing their mission together, each of those officers should have full liberty to act alone."

Inclosure 4 in No. 573.

Copy of Official Record of Proceedings at a Meeting of the Boundary Commission held at Nisch, October 5, 1878.

Nisch, le 5 Octobre, 1878.

MM. LES Commissaires se sont réunis aujourd'hui à Nisch, le Commissaire Turc n'ayant pas encore donné de ses nouvelles.

M. le Commissaire Russe a donné connaissance de deux télégrammes qui lui donnent l'autorisation de délimiter la frontière Bulgaro-Serbe. Le Gouvernement Russe consent à la délimitation de cette frontière sans le concours du Commissaire Turc, s'il y a unanimité dans la Commission.

M. le Commissaire Anglais a donné lecture d'un télégramme qui met pour condition à la délimitation de la dite frontière Bulgare le consentement formel des Puissances; et qui en outre lui interdit de prendre part à aucune délimitation sans la présence d'un Commissaire Turc.

M. le Commissaire Allemand désire attendre la réponse de son Gouvernement qui déjà s'était décidé dans le sens du Gouvernement Russe.

La Commission prenant en considération la perte inutile de temps est d'avis de déléguer à Vranja et à Prepolac, MM. le Lieutenant-Colonel Miehkovitch et le Lieutenant Ross de Bladensburg, pour y faire des travaux préparatoires.

Ces messieurs, auxquels seraient adjoints l'officier topographe Russe et les trois sous officiers Anglais, sont invités à présenter un programme des travaux qu'ils auront à accomplir.

Inclosure 5 in No. 573.

Copy of Official Record of Proceedings at Meetings of the Boundary Commission held at Nisch, October 7 and 8, 1878.

Nisch, le 7, Octobre, 1878.

SUR la question des levés et croquis préparatoires confiés aux soins de MM. le Lieutenant-Colonel Miehkovitch et le Lieutenant Ross of Bladensburg, la Commission décide que ces messieurs se rendront le 9 courant à Vranja avec le topographe Russe, un sous-officier Anglais, et les topographes Serbes.

Arrivés à Vranja MM. le Lieutenant-Colonel Miehkovitch et le Lieutenant Ross of Bladensburg indiqueront aux topographes le travail qu'ils devront accomplir, savoir:—De Poljanica Planina jusqu'à Trnovce en suivant la vallée, et si le temps le permet, l'ancienne frontière du Sandjak. De Trnovce le levé suivra le cours de la rivière Trnavac jusqu'à la Morava et de là jusqu'au confluent du ruisseau qui conte auprès de Neradovce, puis il remontera la Neradovce Rieka jusqu'à Poljanica. Il est entendu que ces travaux topographiques n'auront lieu que s'il n'y a aucun danger à courir, et que pour les exécuter on ne fera avancer aucune troupe Serbe au delà de la position qu'elles occupent actuellement.

Ces instructions étant données par MM. le Lieutenant-Colonel Miehkovitch et le Lieutenant Ross of Bladensburg, ces messieurs se rendront à Prepolac, avec les sous-officiers Anglais, pour y vérifier la position des deux Prepolac, et faire le croquis des environs.

Added to the above after the Meeting of October 8.

La même observation relative aux troupes Serbes dont il a été question pour Vranja est applicable aux travaux à faire à Prepolac, et à ses environs.

Dans le cas d'un empêchement quelconque de la part du Lieutenant-Colonel Miehkovitch ou du Lieutenant Ross of Bladensburg, chacun de ses deux messieurs conserve son entière liberté d'action.

No. 574.

Major Wilson, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 8. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Nisch, October 10*, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 7, I would beg to draw attention to some of the points raised at the meetings of the Commission.

1. In regard to the delimitation of the Servo-Bulgarian boundary, it appears to me that the anxiety of my Russian colleague to commence with this portion of the Servian boundary was due to a wish to delay the work on the side of Turkey proper, and to have the delimitation carried out by a Commission on which Servia was represented, and to which no Turkish Commissioner had been appointed.

My colleagues seem to think that the permission given to them by their respective Governments to proceed with the delimitation of this boundary amounts to a formal

consent of the Powers, whereas I have maintained that an operation which is contrary to the wording of the Treaty of Berlin cannot be carried out without a previous arrangement between the Governments of the Signatory Powers. As I was alone in this view I forwarded a telegram to your Lordship through Mr. Gould on the 8th instant.

2. At the meeting on the 7th instant, the Servian Commissioner presented a sketch of the country through which the new line of frontier runs; in this map, in the accuracy of which I have not much confidence, the position of Kanilug, the point from which the new boundary starts, was shown to the west of its position on the Austrian Staff map; and Marica Planina where Kapaonik Gora is shown on the same map. It is apparently the intention of the Servian Government to claim as the new frontier a line passing through these points as shown on their map, and in this they will have the support of the Russian Commissioner. The view I have adopted is that in accordance with the wording and spirit of the Berlin Treaty, the boundary should at first follow the boundary of the old Sandjak of Nisch, and so avoid those petty communal disputes which are often in these countries the source of serious disturbances, and that as regards the names of places the Commission should follow the Austrian Staff map. In this view I trust I may eventually have the support of the majority of my colleagues.

3. With regard to Prepolac, which is of considerable military importance to Turkey and Austria, the discrepancies between the Austrian and Servian maps may lead to some difficulty, as if the latter is correct the advantages of position will fall to Servia and not to Turkey, as intended by the Treaty.

4. In the vicinity of Vranja the Servian Commissioner appears to claim a line nearly conterminous with that rejected by the Congress, and the Russian Commissioner wished to have an extended survey made of this district. As this would probably have led to an advance of the Servian troops and conflict with the Albanians, I suggested that the survey should only extend to those places in which the surveyors could work in safety without pushing forward the existing line of Servian outposts. This was agreed to, and Lieutenant-Colonel Michkovitch and Lieutenant Ross of Bladensburg, left yesterday for Vranja to point out the limits of the survey. I inclose a copy of the instructions given to Lieutenant Ross of Bladensburg.

5. It appears from what has passed that the Russian and Servian Commissioners would not be unwilling to push Servian troops forward with a view of surveying ground beyond the frontier which will hereafter be of military importance; this would inevitably lead to a conflict with the Albanians and other complications. Your Lordship may depend upon my making every effort to avoid any line of action which could give rise to disturbances on the frontier, and, in this course, I feel sure that I shall have the full support of my French and Austrian colleagues.

6. I have been told that my Italian colleague has been instructed to support any claim made by the Servian Commissioner.

7. The position of the boundary, as defined by the Treaty of Berlin, appears to me so clear and its actual delimitation on the ground in the spirit of the Treaty such a simple matter, that I cannot but attribute the questions that have been raised to a wish that the frontier should for some time longer remain in its present unsettled state. I am, therefore, using every endeavour to obtain a settlement of the boundary at the two most important points, Prepolac and Vranja, before winter commences.

8. I inclose a tracing from the Austrian Staff map, showing the discrepancies between it and the Servian sketch; it will be observed that these discrepancies are always favourable to Servia, never to Turkey.

9. I have written somewhat fully on the above points as they are those which will probably be raised by the Servian, and supported by the Russian and Italian Commissioners when the Commission is properly constituted on the arrival of the Turkish Commissioner.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON, *Major, R.E.*,
Her Majesty's Commissioner.

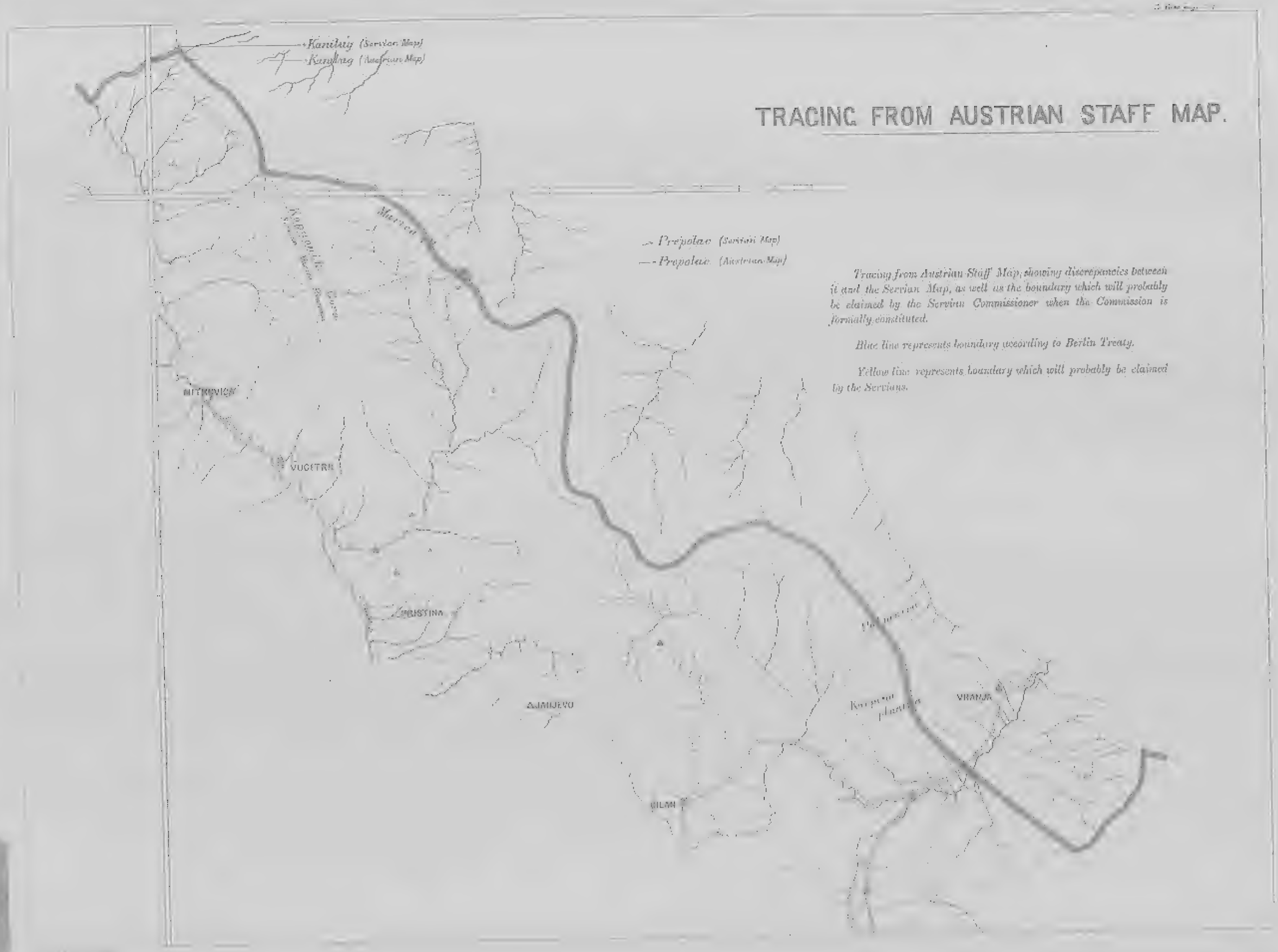
To face page 252

ROM AUSTRIAN STAFF MAP.

from Austrian Staff Map, showing discrepancies between Servian Map, as well as the boundary which will probably by the Servian Commissioner when the Commission is constituted.

ne represents boundary according to Berlin Treaty.

line represents boundary which will probably be claimed uns.



TRACING FROM AUSTRIAN STAFF MAP.

Tracing from Austrian Staff Map, showing discrepancies between it and the Servian Map, as well as the boundary which will probably be claimed by the Servian Commissioner when the Commission is formally constituted.

Blue line represents boundary according to Berlin Treaty.

Yellow line represents boundary which will probably be claimed by the Servians.

Inclosure 1 in No. 574.

Major Wilson, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.

(Telegraphic.) *October 8*, 1878.

TURKISH Commissioner not yet arrived; can the consent of the Powers be obtained to the demarcation of Servian Bulgarian boundary by the Servian Commission to enable me to act with my colleagues when Turkish Commissioner arrives, if Turkish frontier, owing to disturbances, should be impracticable?

Inclosure 2 in No. 574.

Instructions given to Lieutenant Ross of Bladensburg on proceeding to Vranja.

I SHOULD be glad if you would proceed to Vranja and Prepolac to-morrow, 9th October, with a view of carrying out the wishes of the Servian Boundary Commission that the limits of the surveys or sketches to be made at those places should be pointed out on the ground to the Surveyors by yourself and Lieutenant-Colonel Michkovitch.

You are not to consider yourself in any way tied to Lieutenant Colonel Michkovitch, but have complete liberty of action, and should that officer from any cause be unable to proceed at once with the work you are to do it alone. The object of your mission is to facilitate the future work of the Commission, and you should use as much expedition as possible. You are empowered to hire any interpreters, guides or other persons you may consider necessary for the work.

The surveys or sketches are only to extend to those places in which the Surveyors can work in perfect safety without an armed escort. If a single Servian soldier has been or should be advanced, for the purposes of the survey, beyond the line of outposts as they existed at noon yesterday, you are to return and report to me. You are to proceed only to those places on or near the frontier at which the officer commanding the Servian advanced posts can guarantee your safety without an escort.

It is very desirable that your presence on the frontier should not be made the occasion of any military display on the part of the Servians, and so bring on a conflict with the Albanians.

A copy of the Resolution of the Commission is attached. (See Inclosure 5 in No. 7.)

(Signed) C. W. WILSON, *Major, R.E.*,
Her Majesty's Commissioner.

Inclosure 3 in No. 574.

Tracing from Austrian Staff Map, showing the discrepancies between that Map and the Sketch handed to the Commission by the Servian Commissioner.

No. 575.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October 25.*)

(No. 1253.)

Therapia, October 12, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE communicated to Safvet Pasha the substance of Consul Biliotti's despatches to me of the 28th ultimo, copies of which have been forwarded by him to your Lordship in his No. 129, Political, relating to outrages committed by a band of Mussulmans on their own co-religionists and upon Armenians of Hodootchon. His Highness thanked me for the communication, and begged me to request Mr. Biliotti to continue to report to me fully on all such occurrences, promising at the same time to send immediate and peremptory orders to the authorities at Trebizond to take measures to arrest and punish those who had been guilty of these outrages, and to prevent a repetition of them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 576.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 1254. Secret.)

Therapia, October 13, 1878.

My Lord,

I WAS received yesterday by the Sultan. His Majesty, as soon as I entered his room, expressed his great gratification at the letter recently written to him by the Queen thanking him for the Album containing the portraits of his children, which he had sent to Her Majesty. Every word in it, he said, showed the sincere interest that Her Majesty felt in the welfare of himself and of his country, and her personal sympathy for him in his misfortunes. His Majesty added that he could not allow such a letter to remain without an answer.

The conversation then turned upon the audience His Majesty had given a day or two before to Hobart Pasha. The Sultan seemed much amused at the Pasha's frank and outspoken language, which, His Majesty said, he highly appreciated, as it proved to him that Hobart Pasha was an honest and truthful man, upon whose loyal desire to serve him he could rely. He grieved, however, to learn from the Pasha that his character and intentions were so much misunderstood in England, which he attributed to the misrepresentations of the newspapers. I took occasion to observe to His Majesty that the English were a practical people, that they were not satisfied with the mere expression of good intentions, but that they wished to see them put into execution, and that he might rest assured that as soon as they saw that His Majesty was determined to carry out the reforms that were required for the improvement of the administration of his Empire and for the good of its populations they would no longer place faith in newspaper reports, but would believe in the real desire of His Majesty to promote the happiness and prosperity of his subjects.

His Majesty replied that he was determined to fulfil the promises he had frequently made to me, of introducing the reforms to which I had referred. He would no longer, His Majesty said, expect me to rely upon words. He would soon prove by facts what his intentions really were, and he trusted that he should then satisfy, and even more than satisfy, Her Majesty's Government and myself. He only begged me to make allowances for the difficulties with which he had to contend at the present moment in connection with the execution of the Treaty of Berlin. He had the Bosnian, the Albanian, the Greek, and other questions to deal with. The Russians still occupied his territories. The resources of his country were entirely absorbed in the expenses required for the maintenance and movement of troops. Where was he to find the money that was absolutely required for the introduction of new and extensive reforms? He was resolutely determined to devote his whole attention to this matter as soon as he could obtain a little rest, and be released from the pressing matters which now absorbed the whole of his time, and caused him too much anxiety to permit him to think of anything else. He was now more than ever desirous to carry out the general reforms that he meditated (meaning that they would go beyond those required by Her Majesty's Government), because he wished to prove to England that he knew the value of the alliance into which he had entered with her, and had resolved to prove that he was worthy of it, by doing what the English people required of him. Nothing, His Majesty said, had hurt him more than the report which Hobart Pasha told him prevailed—that he had entered into a secret alliance or understanding with Russia. Such a thing was absolutely impossible. Even to believe him capable of the thought was to accuse him of faithlessness, disloyalty, and treachery.

I observed that I was glad to receive from His Majesty's lips this solemn declaration, as I had reason to believe that intrigues were on foot to produce mistrust between His Majesty and myself, and to lead the world to believe that His Majesty was pursuing a policy in conformity with the views and interests of Russia rather than with those of England. It behoved His Majesty and myself, I said, to be on our guard against these intrigues, and against those who were supposed to be instrumental in promoting them. His Majesty answered that he was well aware of the existence of the intrigues to which I alluded, and that I might rest assured that they would have no result as far as he was concerned.

I observed that the best way to frustrate those intrigues, and to secure the support and friendship of England, as well as to further the interests of Turkey herself, and to enable her to make up ultimately in Asia for what she had lost in Europe, was to mark out and decide upon a broad, liberal, and statesmanlike policy, and to pursue it, for the future, steadily and consistently.

His Majesty replied that the course I suggested was a wise one, but the difficulty in the way of it was very great on account of the want of men capable of carrying out such a policy as I had indicated. He trusted, however, that this difficulty would be overcome as soon as peace and order were restored, and he could not only form a Ministry that could properly direct the affairs of the country, but that he could adopt such arrangements as would secure that no change should be made, as hitherto, by successive Ministries in the policy that had been chalked out, and that it was to the true interest of his Empire to pursue. His Majesty added that his confidence in Safvet Pasha had not been shaken, but that his Highness had too much to do, and being naturally indolent and procrastinating, he required "stirring up."

I then informed His Majesty that, in pursuance of his request, I had communicated to Her Majesty's Government the proposal that he had made to me, when I last saw him, to use his good offices in negotiating with Afghanistan, and to send a special secret Envoy to that country for the purpose, and that I had been directed by them to state to His Majesty that they were much gratified by it. I assured him, on their part, that any person he might send would receive a safe conduct to the Afghan frontier. His Majesty replied that since he had spoken to me he had thought a good deal on the subject, and felt convinced that such a Mission as he proposed might have a useful result. He had selected for it Riza Bey, formerly his Minister at Tehran, who enjoyed his entire confidence, and who would be accompanied by a Mullah. As some delay must necessarily take place before the Envoy could leave for Afghanistan, he should be glad if your Lordship would inform him as to the nature of the settlement that Her Majesty's Government desired to come to with Afghanistan, and advise him as to the instructions that he should give to Riza Bey with a view to helping to bring it about. His Majesty added that he had directed the Grand Vizier to make all the necessary arrangements for the contemplated Mission, and he begged me to urge Safvet Pasha to lose no time in doing so.

I asked His Majesty whether there was any truth in the report, that he had already sent a certain Said Raschid Effendi on a secret Mission to the Ameer through Russia.

His Majesty replied, without the slightest hesitation, that not only was there not a word of truth in it, but that this was the first time that he had heard of such a person.

I further inquired of His Majesty whether the letters alleged to have passed between himself and Shere Ali Khan, published in the Turkish and other newspapers, were genuine.

His Majesty answered that they were not, and that no communications whatever had passed between him and the Ameer except those made through Ahmed Khulussi Effendi, with which I have been made acquainted.

His Majesty added, that he traced the reports that had been circulated on this subject to the same source as the intrigues to which I had already referred as being employed to bring about an estrangement between England and Turkey.

His Majesty then observed that from what had passed in a conversation which he had held some days ago with Mohsin Khan about Afghanistan, he had been led to believe that, although the Persian Ambassador might be personally opposed to the policy of Russia, his Government was entirely in the interests of that country, and altogether opposed to those of England. It was on this account, His Majesty said, that he had suggested to me to see Mohsin Khan, in order that I might ascertain his views, and those of his Government, about the present state of affairs in Afghanistan.

After we had discussed this subject I expressed my earnest hope to His Majesty that some means would be found to come to a friendly arrangement with Austria with respect to the occupation of Bosnia. I said that Her Majesty's Government attached very great importance to this matter, as they were convinced that it was essential to the interests of Turkey that she should maintain the most cordial and intimate relations with Austria.

His Majesty replied that, if I alluded to a Convention, it was impossible for him to accept that proposed by Count Andrassy, and that such was now the unanimous opinion of his Ministers and of the country. Matters, therefore, remained as they were; but he fully recognized the importance of maintaining close and amicable relations with Austria, and he was most anxious to do so. He could not, however, His Majesty went on to say, conceal from me that the conduct of that Power in invading and forcibly annexing his provinces, and in cruelly ill-treating his Mussulman subjects, had produced a certain coldness between the two countries, which might even assume a more serious character.

I earnestly warned His Majesty not to be misled by reports of cruelties committed by the Austrians upon the Mahommedan Bosnians. They were, there was every reason to believe, either designedly invented or grossly exaggerated, with the object of making an unfavourable impression upon His Majesty's mind against Austria, and of increasing the ill-feeling which unfortunately existed between her and Turkey. Although, according to accounts that I had received from official and trustworthy sources, certain Austrian Commanders may have treated their Mussulman prisoners with regretable severity, others, on the other hand, had done their best to protect the Mahommedan population. I was convinced, I added, that no cruelties or outrages, such as those that had taken place during the Russian occupation of Bulgaria and Roumelia, had been committed or permitted upon the Mussulmans in Bosnia. I again urged His Majesty to consider very seriously whether some settlement could not be come to with Austria which might remove the ill-feeling that now, unfortunately, appeared to prevail between her and the Porte; and I expressed my personal belief that Her Majesty's Government would contribute, as far as it might be in their power, to this object. It was, I said, absolutely necessary to the future tranquillity and security of Turkey that she should do her utmost to prove her firm desire and intention to execute, as far as it depended upon her, the Treaty of Berlin, and that she should be well with Austria.

His Majesty answered that he was truly desirous of carrying out the Treaty in every respect, and that he had already given proofs of his firm intention to do so; but there were very great difficulties in the way of executing some of its provisions, and he and his Empire would be under a lasting debt of gratitude to Her Majesty's Government if they could smooth the way for him by their mediation and good offices. There were two pressing questions, His Majesty observed, that required immediate settlement —the Bosnian and the Albanian. Would Her Majesty's Government help Turkey to come to an arrangement with Austria on the following bases:—

1. That his sovereignty should be recognized in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and that Mussulmans should be employed in certain public offices.

2. That a term should be fixed for the Austrian occupation.

3. That a line should be agreed upon beyond which that occupation should not extend.

4. That the Mussulman population of those provinces should enjoy full protection for life and property. If, His Majesty added, this protection could be secured to the Mahommedans of Bosnia through the good offices of Her Majesty's Government, the services thus rendered by Her Majesty's Government to the cause of Islam would be deeply appreciated by the whole of his Empire.

I said that I would submit to your Lordship His Majesty's request, but I should be glad to know whether, as regards the second point, His Majesty meant that a specific time should be fixed for the Austrian occupation, or that a declaration was to be made in general terms that the occupation was temporary or provisional. If the former, I observed, I feared that there was no hope of the Austrian Government agreeing to it. His Majesty replied that he considered it necessary that some definite period for the occupation should be settled.

His Majesty observed that he was now sending a considerable body of troops in the direction of Novi-Bazar in order to keep the Albanians in check, so that no pretext might be afforded to Austria to advance upon that place. If, notwithstanding, the Austrian forces should march towards it, he could not answer for the effect upon his army, which might go over to the Albanians, and join them in defending their country. I remarked to His Majesty that I had understood, from the assurances given by the Cabinet of Vienna to Her Majesty's Government, that Austria had no intention, for the present, to extend her occupation to Novi-Bazar. His Majesty replied that this was the principal reason that made him desirous that a line should be drawn limiting the Austrian advance, as if, in consequence of their further approach to Novi-Bazar, hostilities were to break out, Greece would at once enter upon war with Turkey, and Russia would then continue to remain in the provinces she now occupied.

As regards the territorial cessions in Montenegro, His Majesty declared that he had no wish whatever to evade the execution of the Treaty of Berlin; but the greatest difficulty existed in reconciling the Albanians to the loss of territory belonging to and exclusively inhabited by them. He could not force them to deliver themselves up to their secular enemies, the Montenegrins. He would gladly come to some settlement by which present complications, and a state of things which would infallibly give rise to future trouble and disorders, could be avoided. He would, therefore, propose to Her Majesty's Government that an arrangement should be come to by which some

other territory should be substituted for the Albanian districts given by the Treaty to Montenegro.

I remarked that this proposal had already been made by the Porte to Her Majesty's Government, but that, however desirable such an arrangement might be, some of the Signatory Powers would probably not agree to any modifications of the Treaty in this respect.

His Majesty then spoke to me on the subject of the audience that he had given last week to Prince Labanoff. His account of it entirely tallied with what Safvet Pasha had told me with respect to it. I am bound to say, in justice to His Majesty, that I have frequently had occasion of thus satisfying myself as to the accuracy of statements that he has made to me. His Majesty described how he had insisted upon the Grand Vizier being present in order that anything he might say might not be misrepresented, or that words might be attributed to him which he had not uttered. His Majesty informed me that Prince Labanoff had stated that, in consequence of the withdrawal of the Russian troops, the Christians, alarmed at the outrages already committed upon them by the Turks, and fearing further ill-treatment, were abandoning their homes in such numbers that they impeded the retreat of the Russian army, which had now been compelled to stop its movement towards Adrianople. The Russian authorities, the Ambassador said, could not leave the Christian population to its fate, nor could they take it with them. Such being the case, he had been instructed by the Emperor to invite the Porte to take immediate measures for the protection of the Christians in the country evacuated by the Russians, and to re-establish its authority in it by sending high and responsible functionaries for the purpose.

His Majesty said, laughing, that he had replied to Prince Labanoff that, being a constitutional Sovereign, he could not prevent his subjects doing as they pleased, and if the Christians chose to leave with the Russians he could not hinder them. No doubt they had the same sympathy with the Christian Government of Russia as the Crim Tartars and the Circassians had for the Mussulman Government of Turkey. When those tribes, preferring Turkish to Russian rule, had left their homes and had taken refuge in Turkey, they had been provided with houses and land. He hoped that the Emperor of Russia would show similar generosity and kindness to the Christians who had abandoned everything to place themselves under his rule.

I observed to his Majesty that, although I had every reason to believe that very exaggerated reports as to the ill-treatment of the Christians by the Turks in the evacuated districts had been circulated, perhaps for the purpose of inducing the former to accompany the retreating Russian army, yet it was of great importance that the Porte should take every possible measure to protect the lives and property of the Christian population, and to prevail upon them not to leave the country. Unless this were done a pretext would be afforded to the Russians to continue their occupation of Turkish territory.

His Majesty replied that, although he was convinced that every precaution had been adopted for the security of the lives and property of the Christians, he had taken the further steps required of him, and Mahzar Pasha, with a number of officials from the Porte, had been ordered to leave immediately for the head-quarters of the Russian army in order to concert measures with the Russian Commanders for reassuring the Christian population.

In consequence of some remarks that I made to His Majesty about the extreme importance of not reducing too much the army required for the defence of Constantinople, and of finishing and reoccupying the lines of Buyuk Tchekmedji Derkos, and of maintaining a sufficient force in those of Bulair, His Majesty said that he had, acting upon a Memorandum from General Baker Pasha that I had given to him on a previous occasion, and of which he entirely approved, already issued orders that the Buyuk Tchekmedji Derkos lines should be placed in a state of complete efficiency, and that this was now being done. I advised His Majesty to consult Baker Pasha himself on this point if he wished to learn the truth, as I had reason to believe that, notwithstanding the reports made to him on the subject, his orders were not being executed as they ought to be. His Majesty thanked me for the hint, and remarked that he intended to make Baker Pasha one of his Aides-de-camp, and that he would then be often able to consult the Pasha personally.

As I was about to take my leave, His Majesty said that there was one more subject on which he desired to speak with me, that of Greece. His Majesty observed that until peace was entirely restored to Turkey, and that it was no longer necessary to maintain a very large military force at an expenditure which was bringing ruin on the country, he could not enter upon the execution of the reforms in the adminis-

tration and effect those changes in the Government which were absolutely necessary to the prosperity and well-being of the Empire. One war had no sooner been brought to an end than another was threatened. He was now menaced with an attack from Greece. Could nothing be done to avoid so serious a calamity? I replied that, according to the report brought from Athens by Hobart Pasha, it appeared highly probable that unless His Majesty was prepared to make some territorial concessions to Greece war was inevitable. Was His Majesty, I asked, disposed to do so? The Sultan answered that after he had been despoiled of so much territory, it was very difficult indeed for him to make further territorial sacrifices. On the other hand, he was well aware that a war with Greece would not result in any advantage to Turkey. Even if she were to repulse a Greek attack, as was highly probable, the European Powers would not permit her to punish Greece as she deserved for an unjust and unprovoked invasion, by annexing any part of her territory, or by inflicting a heavy pecuniary fine upon her. His Majesty ended by saying that he would think the matter seriously over, and would communicate his ideas fully with regard to it to Hairredin Pasha, with whom he begged me to discuss the subject as soon as I conveniently could, as he was very anxious to avoid a war with Greece. His Majesty added that he had great confidence in the judgment and loyalty of Hairredin Pasha, and that he had every reason to hope that he would find in him a valuable friend and adviser. His Majesty expressed his wish that I should frequently see the Pasha, and thanked me for the attentions that I had already shown him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 577.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October 25.*)

(No. 1255.) [B.R.]
My Lord, *Therapia, October* 13, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Vice-Consul Odoni, relating to the evacuation by the Russian troops of the district of Gallipoli, and to the measures taken by the Turkish Governor to re-establish the authority of the Porte. Your Lordship will perceive that Mr. Odoni does not confirm the reports that have been circulated here, and have been communicated by the Russian Government to the European Powers, of the ill-treatment of the Christians by the Mussulmans; although it would appear that the Porte has not taken proper steps to send efficient functionaries to take the place of those who have hitherto acted under the Russians. I have submitted Mr. Odoni's despatch to Safvet Pasha, and have urged upon him the importance of doing so without delay. His Highness assures me that measures have already been taken in the sense recommended by Reshad Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 577.

Vice-Consul Odoni to Sir A. H. Layard.

Gallipoli, le 6 Octobre, 1878.

Excellence,

APRÈS ma dépêche du 1er de ce mois, j'ai eu l'honneur de vous adresser deux télégrammes en date du 3 et 5 dito, dont je remets copie sous pli.

Les troupes Russes ont abandonné, le 3, Charkeui et Kadikeui, et les autorités Turques s'y sont installées. Un bataillon et demi d'infanterie a été envoyé dans ces localités. Le 4 et le 5 deux autres bataillons sont partis pour Kessan et Malgara, qui ont été évacués par les Russes. Le Caïmacam pour Kessan est parti hier au soir. Je suppose que le Gouverneur de Rodosto aura envoyé un Caïmacam à Malgara.

Hier au soir et dans la nuit environ 2,400 hommes d'infanterie ont été embarqués pour Enos et Dédéagatch, que les Russes devaient évacuer hier et aujourd'hui.

Le Gouverneur, Reshad Pacha, fait tout son possible pour trouver des hommes capables pour les envoyer comme Caïmacams dans les divers cazás, mais malheureusement il n'a pas sous la main ce qu'il lui faut, et le Gouvernement ne s'est pas empressé

de lui envoyer des hommes qui soient à la hauteur des fonctions difficiles et délicates qui incombent, en ce moment, à tous les Caïmacams destinés à l'administration des cazas que les troupes Russes viennent d'évacuer. Reshad Pacha a demandé à plusieurs reprises de lui envoyer des hommes capables pour les avoir prêts au moment donné, mais toutes ses démarches ont été infructueuses.

L'incurie du Gouvernement en cette circonstance pourrait bien avoir des conséquences très-fâcheuses.

Jusqu'au moment que je vous écris on signale que la tranquillité règne dans les endroits évacués par les Russes et occupés par les troupes et autorités Turques, mais ce n'est que depuis hier que les réfugiés ont commencé à revenir de l'Asie pour rentrer chez eux. Ces réfugiés arrivent en masse.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) A. ODONI.

No. 578.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October 25.*)

(No. 1257.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October* 13, 1878.

IT is reported in the Turkish newspapers that Prince Dondoukoff Korsakoff is introducing new regulations into Bulgaria which would appear to affect our commercial relations with Turkey, and to be at variance with the VIIIth Article of the Treaty of Berlin. For instance, it is stated that he had issued an order that all merchandize purchased in Roumania, and imported into Bulgaria, is to be free of Custom-house duty. If such should be the case, England and other European States possessing the most-favoured-nation clause in their Treaties with Turkey would, I presume, have the right to claim a similar privilege.

I have called the attention of Mr. Consul-General Palgrave to this matter, and have requested him to make a full report to me upon the subject as soon as he arrives at his post.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 579.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October 25.*)

(No. 1258. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October* 14, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1220, Confidential, of the 4th instant, I have the honour to inclose copy of a further private letter that I have received from Ghazi Ahmed Moukhtar Pasha with regard to the affairs of Crete. Your Lordship will see with satisfaction that his Excellency is disposed to do his best in a liberal spirit for the pacification of the island. There are now good hopes that his exertions will be rewarded by success.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 579.

Ahmed Moukhtar Pasha to Sir A. H. Layard.

La Canée, le 6 Octobre, 1878.

Excellence,

MR. SANDWITH m'a communiqué le télégramme que votre Excellence lui a adressé concernant l'urgence d'une solution de la question Crétoise commandée par la situation critique des affaires en Grèce.

Votre Excellence a pu constater par le contenu de ma présente lettre que je suis pénétré de la nécessité d'arriver le plutôt possible à la solution de la question qui nous occupe.

Indépendamment de la tournure critique de la question Grecque que votre Excellence signale à mon attention, il y a des considérations purement locales d'une gravité exceptionnelle qui nous recommandent l'urgence criante d'un arrangement définitif. Si malgré mon esprit de modération reconnu même par MM. les Délégués de l'Assemblée Générale je n'ai pas réussi à l'heure qu'il est à mettre un terme à la triste et douloureuse situation de l'île—objet de toutes mes préoccupations—c'est surtout parce que des intrigues odieuses n'ont jamais manqué de poursuivre leur but subversif de toute idée d'ordre et de pacification.

En dehors des Musulmans fidèles au Gouvernement Impérial et de la grande majorité des indigènes Chrétiens désirant sincèrement le retour de l'ordre et de la légalité avec des réformes sérieuses, il y a une minorité turbulente qui, sous le couvert des demandes de réformes et de concessions, formulent des prétentions d'un caractère excessif tendant à amener une scission profonde entre la province et l'Empire, une séparation dangereuse entre le Gouvernement et ses sujets.

C'est contre ces prétentions exagérées que j'ai lutté pendant un mois, m'efforçant de démontrer et de rebattre ce qu'elles contenaient d'exagéré et d'inacceptable.

Ayant cependant acquis la certitude que les discussions et négociations verbales dans nos séances à Halepa traîneraient en longueur, et pourraient aussi ne pas aboutir, j'ai demandé à MM. les Délégués de me présenter une fois pour toutes leurs demandes, en les recommandant de les rédiger aussi clairement que possible.

Votre Excellence recevra en même temps que la présente les demandes en question. Je présume que Mr. Sandwith, qui en a reçu la traduction Française, ne manquera pas de vous en envoyer copie. Je vais transmettre aussi copie des nombreuses concessions que j'ai faites pour satisfaire l'Assemblée Générale d'une manière raisonnable.

Votre Excellence verra par ces documents que l'immense majorité des demandes des Crétois ont été admis. Si après des pareilles concessions l'Assemblée Crétoise ne se montre pas satisfaite, il reste, je crois, peu d'espoir d'une solution prochaine.

(Signé) AHMED MOUKHTAR.

No. 580.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 1259). [B.B.] *Therapia, October* 14, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a further despatch from Vice-Consul Odoni, which shows that the rumours that have been promulgated here and elsewhere as to the outrages committed by the Turks on Christians, in the country evacuated by the Russian forces, are greatly exaggerated, if they are not unfounded, as regards his Consular district. It would further appear that the Turkish authorities have taken steps to arrest those who have committed robberies upon Christians, and to return the stolen property.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 580.

Vice-Consul Odoni to Sir A. H. Layard.

Gallipoli, le 12 *Octobre*, 1878.

Excellence,

J'AI l'honneur de confirmer mon télégramme du 8 de ce mois, dont je remets copie sous pli.

Ce jour-là le Gouverneur m'a fait appeler pour m'informer qu'il avait reçu un télégramme du Caïmacam de Kessan. Il était très-vexé de la démarche du général Russe, dont il ne connaît pas le nom, et il se demandait pourquoi ce général était venu s'immiscer de ce qui se passait ou non dans un endroit déjà occupé par les autorités Turques.

Osman Pasha, le Commandant-en-chef, m'a dit qu'il regrettait profondément une telle démarche de la part d'un général Russe, démarche qui aurait pu donner

lieu à un conflit entre Russes et Turcs, dont les conséquences seraient peut-être incalculables.

La tranquillité continue à régner dans notre province. Quelques vols de chevaux et bétail ont été commis par divers Turcs au détriment des Rayas; mais les voleurs ont été arrêtés et conduits ici. Les chevaux et bétail ont été rendus aux propriétaires.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signed) A. ODONI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 580.

Vice-Consul Odoni to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Télégraphique.) *Gallipoli, le* 8 *Octobre*, 1878.

HIER un Général Russe avec 100 lanciers est arrivé à Kessan venant de Ozonkupru. Caïmacam ayant demandé ce qu'il voulait a répondu qu'il avait entendu dire qu'il y avait des troubles et il était venu pour voir, et qu'il était content de s'être assuré que tout était tranquille. Ensuite, comme c'était tard, a demandé à passer la nuit à Kessan, et ce matin il est parti.

No. 581.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 75. Consular.) *Therapia, October* 15, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Dr. Dickson, reporting that the Russian authorities have refused to allow the Ottoman health officers to resume their duties at Bourgas and its dependencies.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 581.

Dr. Dickson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Constantinople, October 10, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that Dr. Atzeni, Sanitary Medical Officer at Bourgas, in a report addressed to the Board of Health on the 1st instant, states, that on delivering to the Russian authorities of that place the document sent by Prince Dondoukoff Korsakoff, authorizing him and the Ottoman health officers of the various stations under his jurisdiction in the Gulf of Bourgas, to resume their duties, the Russian Governor of the town informed him that the Russian Government had already provided a sanitary service there, and that neither he nor his subordinates could, therefore, be allowed to resume their functions; that, moreover, the health office at Bourgas, now occupied by the Russians, was required by them for an office for their steamboat service, and could not be given up.

Dr. Atzeni adds that the place is full of Russian soldiers, and that living has become very expensive at Bourgas.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. D. DICKSON.

No. 582.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 1262.) *Therapia, October* 16, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I received on the 14th instant telegram from Vice-Consul Calvert, dated Philippopolis, in which he states that at

Douvanja, a village two hours from Philippopolis, the Turkish inhabitants have lately been attacked by Bulgarian and Christian gipsies, who murdered a woman and child, and severely wounded five other women; that the Turks of this village sustained a similar attack some weeks ago, but dared not complain to the Russian authorities, the Bulgarian police having forbidden them to do so. They still fear to complain, but say that if interrogated they will declare their case.

I have instructed Mr. Calvert, in reply to his telegram, that as the Russian Government has informed that of Her Majesty that the Russian authorities will look into complaints of that kind if they be properly substantiated and brought to their notice by British Consular Agents, he should bring the circumstances of the case he has submitted to me to the notice of the Imperial Commissioner. I have further directed Mr. Calvert to inform me of the result of his representations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 583.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 1263. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 16, 1878.*

IN my despatch No. 1254, Secret, of the 12th instant, I stated that the Sultan had mentioned to me his intention of consulting General Baker Pasha personally with regard to the lines of Buyuk Tchekmedjé. His Majesty has carried out his intention, and the inclosed extract from a private letter to me from General Baker gives an account of his audience of His Majesty which will be of interest to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 583.

General Baker Pasha to Sir A. H. Layard.

Pera, October 15, 1878.

My dear Sir Henry,

THE Sultan sent for me to-day, and I have just returned after a very long, satisfactory, and interesting interview with him. Khairredin Pasha acted as interpreter, and I was very much pleased with the frank and bold way in which he expressed his opinions to the Sultan.

The Sultan has charged me to make a full and complete report relative to the Buyuk Tchekmedjé lines. I am to make it to him personally, and, as he wants it by Saturday, I start to-morrow morning.

I only trust that he will let me carry out the fortifications of the line, otherwise I know how it will be slurred over. He seems determined that it shall be done at once, but I fear Osman will not give much assistance. I have told him that I should want from 35,000 to 40,000 men, properly provided with tools and implements, in order to complete the works within a month. He spoke very nicely about England, and is very much pleased with the Queen's letter.

The Sultan also said that he was very anxious to stop the war between us and Shere Ali, and intended to write to Shere Ali, declaring that he, as head of all the Mahommedans, entirely disapproved of his conduct, and that his action against England was contrary to Mahommedan interests.

This will certainly not stop the war, but it may have a good effect upon the Mahommedans of India and on the Turkomans and frontier tribes.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) V. BAKER.

No. 584.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 1264.) [B.B.]
My Lord, *Therapia, October 16, 1878.*

COLONEL HOME, at my request, was good enough to send Lieutenant Chermside to visit the country in the vicinity of Constantinople recently evacuated by the Russian army, and to inquire into the truth of the reports of massacres of, and outrages upon, Christians, alleged to have been committed by the Mussulmans. These reports have been current here, and, as your Lordship is aware, have been put forward by the Russian Government as justifying the orders it has given to stop the withdrawal of the Russian forces into Eastern Roumelia, and the prolonged occupation of Turkish territory.

Your Lordship will find from Lieutenant Chermside's statement, copy of which I have the honour to inclose, that they are for the most part altogether unfounded, and that the few isolated cases of assassination or robbery that may have occurred have been exaggerated into deliberate massacres of the Christian population.

It would not be surprising if, after the treatment to which the Mussulmans have been exposed during the period of Russian rule, after the general destruction of their property, the outrages committed upon their wives and children, and the indiscriminate slaughter to which they have been subjected, the survivors, who may return to their desolated villages, may seek to recover their property and retaliate upon their cruel persecutors. That they have not already done so is a remarkable proof of the peaceable character of these poor people. Still there may be danger of reprisals, and the Porte is bound by every consideration to take all the measures in its power to prevent them. According to Lieutenant Chermside it has done so to a certain extent, and he speaks highly of the energy displayed by the Turkish authorities with whom he has been brought into contact. I have not failed, however, to urge upon the Grand Vizier the necessity of taking even more effective and vigorous steps.

Your Lordship will observe the fact stated by Lieutenant Chermside, which has been confirmed to me from other sources, that whilst the Bulgarian population is leaving the country and following the Russian army, the Greeks for the most part remain. This would appear to confirm the suspicion that the Bulgarians are excited to take this course by Russian agents, and that the pretext that they are emigrating in large numbers in consequence of the fear of ill-treatment on the part of the Turks is made use of to further justify the continued occupation of Turkish territory which Russia is bound to evacuate.

Lieutenant Chermside informs me that he heard from Russian officers that it was the intention of the Russian Commanders to remain in their present positions until the questions relating to the Bulgarian emigration, such as compensation for abandoned land and property were settled, and that they expected that this would occupy many months.

As, according to the reports received from the British Vice-Consuls at Rodosto and Gallipoli, these districts are undisturbed, and no outrages have been committed in them by the Mussulmans upon the Christians, it may be affirmed with some confidence that there is no truth in the statements made by the Russians as to the consequences of their retreat. It must, however, be observed that the greater number of the Mussulmans, who were driven from their homes in consequence of the Russian invasion and the persecution to which they were exposed, have not yet returned. When they do, and find their houses destroyed and their property in the hands of the Christians, there may undoubtedly be danger of reprisals on their part, and of attempts to recover what they have lost by violent means.

Your Lordship will not fail to remark that, whilst the murder or ill-treatment of a solitary Christian gives rise on the part of the Russian Government to indignant remonstrances, and to appeals to Europe against Turkey, the most shocking outrages are daily committed with impunity upon the unfortunate Mussulman population which is under Russian rule in Bulgaria and Roumelia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 584.

Lieutenant Chermside, R.E., to Colonel Home, R.E.

Pera, October 12, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward you the following items of information concerning the recent movements of the Turks and Russians in the neighbourhood of Tchorlu and Lulé Bourgas. This information was derived during the journey to and from Hadem-Keui, on which I accompanied you, from railway officials and others. I cannot vouch for it in any way, but have no reason to doubt its general correctness.

Position of Russian and Turkish Outposts on 10th October.—On the 10th October it is stated that the Russian and Turkish outposts were close to each other at Seidler Tchiftlik, which is the second station beyond Tchorlu, and the one before Lulé Bourgas. The Russians had, it appears, almost completely left the neighbourhood of Lulé Bourgas by the end of last week (5th October), and the railway officials felt assured of this by the absence of a Commandant at the railway-station on the 5th and 6th. At this date (6th) the Turkish advanced posts had not reached Seidler Tchiftlik, but they were there on the 7th. On the 7th and 8th the Russians had returned to Lulé Bourgas, and there was a Commandant at the station. They are now, it is said, there and near Seidler Tchiftlik in considerable numbers. Two battalions have been brought by rail from Adrianople, but a considerable force has also come by land. On the 10th a train was being made up to take troops from Lulé Bourgas to Seidler Tchiftlik. Turkish zaptiehs (over thirty, it is said), who had been sent to Lulé Bourgas, were disarmed and imprisoned by the Russians. My informants aver that, when about a week since the Russian departure from the neighbourhood was almost complete, a disturbance occurred in which upwards of thirty Christians lost their lives at the hands of the Turks; that the Christian population have informed the Russians that their lives are in danger if they depart; and that in consequence the Russians have returned. There was a rumour that General Skobeleff was at Lulé Bourgas.

Tchorlu.—At Tchorlu it is said that a very large number of houses have been burnt. The Bulgarian portion of the inhabitants have left, but the other Christians remain; 23,000 are said to be approximately the numbers of Bulgarians who have followed or accompanied the westward movement of the Russians from this place.

General Departure of Bulgarians from District evacuated by Russians.—This exodus of Bulgarians is said to be general throughout the country now being evacuated by the Russians.

The country is reported to be in a very desolate state. The Turkish villages have not been yet reoccupied except in a few instances. Many houses and parts of houses have been burnt as firewood, while many of the Christian villages are said to be now deserted.

Turkish Police Measures.—As regards the Turkish precautions for ensuring order in the country, the dispatch of zaptiehs to Lulé Bourgas has been mentioned above.

On the 6th October seventy-eight zaptiehs and a Kaimakam were conveyed by rail to Baba Eski (one station beyond Lulé Bourgas), but my informant could not tell me whether they had taken up their usual duties.

The Turks, as far as I could gather, in their forward movement have followed even in their marches the line of rail, and have not penetrated far into the country on either side.

The cavalry and artillery advanced from Tchataldja by route march, but four trains full of infantry (three or four battalions) have taken troops from Tchataldja to Tchorlu.

Schuri Pasha, as you know, has his head-quarters at Tchataldja.

Stoppage of Empty Railway Waggons by Russians.—The Russians have for some days past stopped all empty waggons returning to Constantinople, and are collecting a considerable amount of rolling-stock at Lulé Bourgas.

The idea that this may be to impede the forward movement of the Turks, or to prepare some movement of their own, are mere surmises.

The station-master at Hadem-Keui and the guard of the train informed me, as you are aware, that there are numerous instances of murders on the highways, but that in the neighbouring villages, as far as they were aware, few outrages had occurred.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 584.

Lieutenant Chermside, R.E., to Colonel Home, R.E.

Tchorlu, October 15, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, in accordance with your instructions, I left Constantinople on Sunday, the 13th, in order to get the best information I could as to the state of the country recently evacuated by the Russians, as to the recent Russian military movements near Lulé Bourgas, and as to the precautions to ensure tranquillity taken by the Turks.

I have made inquiries of the station-masters and others at all the stations from Yarim Bourgas to Lulé Bourgas, and from the result of these I have not thought it necessary to leave the rail, except to visit the towns of Lulé Bourgas and Tchorlu, the former place still occupied by a considerable force of Russians, the latter by the bulk of the Turkish corps of occupation, which, under orders of Selami Pasha, is following up the Russian movements to the westward.

Facts ascertained.—The main facts are—

1. That the Russians are still in considerable force at Lulé Bourgas, and appear to have no immediate intention of retiring from it.

2. That the Russian and Turkish outposts cut the line of rail near Seidler Tchiftlik station, which is in Turkish hands, but is also used by the Russians. The dividing line between the two forces, which comprises a neutral zone of three kilometres, runs from Midia viâ Kutchuk-keui, Visa, Mushin, Maukerat, Hadjiler, Karishteran, Mesrupli, Fambaslar, Delipetro, Kadi-keui, and Karabunar, in the direction of Hairebolu.

3. That there is a general exodus of the Bulgarian population from the districts occupied by the Turks.

4. That the Turkish police precautions appear good.

5. That considering the existing circumstances, the country is so far in a wonderfully tranquil state.

I did not hear at any of the railway-stations, where exaggerated rumours usually arrive, of any disorders or outrages of a very serious nature.

6. That the country, as evidenced by the semi-ruined and deserted villages visible from the rail, is in a very desolate condition.

7. That the Mussulman population now in the country is scanty, the numbers who remained being small, and the return of fugitives as yet being partial. No Circassians have yet appeared.

1. *Lulé Bourgas.*—The departure of the Russians from Lulé Bourgas by the 6th October, and their subsequent return; the removal and renewal of a commandant at the station, as reported to you from hearsay on the 12th, was a correct statement, but the explanation does not appear to have been correct, and the report of disturbances and murders by the Turks seems also to be incorrect.

The actual facts, I believe, are these:—

The Russians had left the place by the end of the first week of October, and only the Governor of the place remained.

At this time a Turkish Yaz-bashi of zaptiehs with thirty men arrived. They had no papers or credentials, and were, by the orders of the Russian Governor, disarmed by the local police, and were subsequently sent back by rail. They were recognized by the inhabitants as former Government officials, and were, it is said, jeered at and insulted.

Much damage has been done to Turkish property in this town, and the inhabitants, who, it appears, are very much afraid of reprisals, commenced an agitation on the arrival of the Turkish zaptiehs, saying that their lives would be in danger, that they must leave the place if the Turks came, and that they wished the Russians to remain.

Reputed Massacres.—As regards the reputed massacres, the only Turks in the country near Lulé Bourgas, are those who have been there some time; no peasants or refugees, only the zaptiehs came to the town.

In some of the Christian villages, indeed, there was a sort of panic, and the people commenced selling their cereals and other possessions at very low rates, and prepared to desert their villages.

This was the case at Tchiftlick Keui, near Seidler Tchiftlick Station, and possibly the Russians sent troops there as mentioned, though I imagine that as in the case of

Lulé Bourgas, the troops there now came from Constantinople, and merely replaced others who had evacuated those places to make room for the new comers.

These movements gave rise to the rumour of the Russians returning after having quitted these places, but as on Monday, the 13th, an officer of the Russian battery of artillery at Tchiftlik-keui told me that they and the regiment of cavalry there had come from the east, and had never been further westward, and described his recent march and its halts, I imagine that the case is as here represented.

Trains from Adrianople.—The trains along the line have merely brought "casuals" and military stores to Lulé Bourgas, Seidler, Tchiftlik, &c.; the two battalions who came from Adrianople went, I am informed, from Baba Eski Station to Haircholu, and were accompanied by four guns.

The alleged reason for this was, that the Turks had occupied Haircholu, which is beyond the agreed on neutral line, the inhabitants wished, it is said, for troops to keep order, the Turks have now retired beyond the stipulated line, and the Russians occupy the town.

Lieutenant-Colonel Ali Bey, attached as Turkish Military Agent to General Todleben's Staff, and Hadji Hussein Pasha (Fevik), Commandant at Tchorlu, both gave this explanation.

Reported accumulation of rolling-stock at Lulé Bourgas Station.—Concerning the reported accumulation of rolling-stock at Lulé Bourgas Station, I can state that it is not the case, but for some days the passage of goods trains was forbidden by the Russian authorities.

This interdiction has been now removed.

I mentioned that the Russians were still at Lulé Bourgas, and seemed to have no intention of retiring at present.

Force of Russians at Lulé Bourgas.—The force at Lulé Bourgas is part of General Skobeloff's corps. At Tchiftlik-keui there is a cavalry regiment, and at Lulé Bourgas two cavalry regiments, one battery of horse artillery, and one Cossack battery, and a regiment of infantry.

I dined in the company of a number of Russian officers, who appeared to take me for a grain merchant; they seemed to fully expect to pass the winter in the town.

They, and two European gentlemen, who are engaged in agricultural operations in the neighbourhood, not only informed me of this, but that it was expected to be the head-quarters of a whole division.

A Greek, in whose house Russian officers are living, told me that on the 12th these officers received a telegram, informing them that 5,000 or 6,000 men would shortly arrive in Lulé Bourgas from Adrianople.

I gathered from general conversation, which was very unreserved on the part of the Russian officers, who had been dining "freely," that the emigration of the Bulgarians into districts still held by the Russians, and the time necessary to arrange or complete it would be the pretext for remaining at Lulé Bourgas, and that Adrianople would not be given up until the definitive Treaty between Turkey and Russia, as to the points left undecided by the Berlin Congress is put into execution or, at any rate, signed.

The opinions of Lieutenant-Colonel Ali Bey, the Turkish Military Agent at the Russian head-quarters, corroborate these ideas.

2. *Position of Russian and Turkish Outposts.*—The position of the line of demarkation is treated more fully in a Military Report herewith forwarded.

Mehemet Pasha, in command of the advanced cavalry force, told me yesterday that the Russians have forbidden any forage, provisions, &c., to pass from villages in their hands to the Turks. Hadji Hussein Pasha, Commandant at Tchorlu, also informed me of this, and I understood him to add (conversation was in Turkish) that any such supplies were forbidden to come by rail from the Adrianople direction.

3. *Emigration of the Bulgarian Population.*—From all I have heard and seen there can, I think, be no doubt that there is almost an universal exodus of the Bulgarian population from the districts handed over to the Turks. It is alleged, not only by Turks but by Greeks, that this was made at the instigation of the Russians, and that strong Russian influence was brought to bear to bring it about. The Russians are said to pay the railway fares of the fugitive Bulgarians, but, of course, assistance to destitute refugees might easily be magnified into a sweeping general statement.

The Greek inhabitants have, as a rule, remained, and several asserted to me that they were invited and urged to emigrate with the Bulgarians. They naturally make the same statement to the Turks; it is one that it would require careful investigation to confirm.

Feeling of Greeks.—At Lulé Bourgas they seem likely to depart if the Russians retire; perhaps principally for the reasons before given, and they appear to wish the Russians to remain. At least, such was the information that my servant, an intelligent Greek, was able to procure for me. At Tchorlu, on the contrary, not only did I judge the reverse to be the case from what I saw of the Greeks myself, but my servant, after some hours spent in the town, assured me that such was the case, and that there were numerous complaints against the Russians. The Greeks seem, however, very much in fear of outrages, &c., occurring should the troops leave the place.

4. *Turkish Police Precautions.*—The Turkish police precautions appear good, though I have had no opportunity of verifying whether they exist in the villages as represented.

5. *Tranquillity of Country.*—As mentioned, no rumours of disorders of any magnitude have reached the railway stations, and I heard from Greek travellers from Rodosto to Tchorlu and Erekli Tchataldja that the country was very tranquil.

The civil authorities have resumed their functions at Tchorlu, Derkos, Stranja, Rodosto, Malgara, Keshan, Chorlu, Serai, Visa, &c., and seem to have brought all the zaptiehs they could. The latter are, I am assured, distributed in the villages in a considerable measure.

The only disturbance I heard of, of any consequence, besides a rumoured one at Rodosto, was the appearance of armed bands of brigands between Rodosto and Muratlu station. These were said to consist both of Greeks or Bulgarians and Turks, but the plundering was at once put a stop to by the Turkish police, I was informed by both Christians and Turks, as well as by the station-master at Muratlu.

As the zaptieh force is not sufficient for the abnormal state of affairs, infantry battalions have been told off as well for police duty in the villages; these are to be distributed in small parties, under the command of non-commissioned officers.

For the Tchataldja district, there is (Hadji Hussein Pasha informed me) one battalion told off; for the Rodosto Sandjak, two battalions (presumably from the Gallipoli corps). Two and a half companies of these last form the force disposable in the Tchorlu Caza for assisting in the police duties, and the Military Commandant at that place has placed another complete battalion at the disposal of the Governor (Kaïmakam).

The greater number of Turkish villages, both those I have seen from the rail and those near Tchataldja, Lulé Bourgas, &c., are deserted, and are all more or less in a ruined condition; and, now that the Bulgarian population has left its villages, the whole country appears in an exceeding deserted and desolate state.

Although the Turkish villages are in a very ruined condition, the damage appears to have been either done months ago, at the time of the flight of the Mussulman population, or to consist chiefly of the removal of the woodwork of the houses for firewood. In villages that have been occupied by the Russian troops, both Christian and Turkish, this is notable; trees and property appear to have been spared as far as possible, and the destruction not to have been wanton, but rather such as was necessitated by the absence of firewood.

The Turkish quarter of Lulé Bourgas has suffered a great deal.

The same remark applies to Tchorlu, where it is in a great measure destroyed; this appears to have taken place last winter. Almost all the fields are fallow, and no autumn sowing appears to have been done as yet.

The refugee Mussulman population was returning on the 11th and 12th to the villages in the Tchataldja district, in the country beyond a small number of villages seem partially inhabited, some of these, however, contain Turks, who have been there some time, and as yet the refugees do not appear to have returned to their homes to a great extent. This may help to account for the undisturbed state of the country, as, judging from the condition of the Mussulman villages, unless the strictest police precautions be observed, disturbances and reprisals will, I think, be sure to occur.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 584.

Lieutenant Chermside, R.E., to Colonel Home, R.E.

Tchorlu, October 15, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your information, such details as to the military movements of the Russians and Turks as I have been enabled to gather during a journey to and from Lulé Bourgas.

The Turkish advance has been made by troops from Gallipoli and from Stamboul; concerning the movements of the latter force I have ascertained the following details:—

Selami Pasha's Corps.—The corps is commanded by Selami Pasha; it consisted at first of 34 battalions of infantry, 3 (or 4) regiments of cavalry, and 10 batteries of field-artillery, but 6 more battalions of infantry were subsequently added. After reaching Tchataldja, the infantry was moved on by rail to Tcherkess-keui and Tchorlu; the cavalry and artillery advanced by route march.

Selami Pasha, after spending a few days at Tchorlu, where a central military depôt is being formed, returned to Tchataldja where his head-quarters at present remain.

Liva Hassim Pasha remains near Tchataldja, and occupies the left of the Tchekmedjé lines with 1 regiment of cavalry and 6 battalions of infantry.*

At Tcherkess-keui there are encamped, close to the station, 6 battalions of infantry, 2 9-centim. field batteries, and 1 7·8-centim. field battery, under Hassan Pasha.

The bulk of the force, 3 brigades (*i.e.*, from 18 to 24 battalions) with 4 (or 5) batteries, under Hadji Hassein Pasha, are at Tchorlu; the troops are encamped on the downs above the station, and between it and the town.

Provisions, &c., are being collected and stored in the town. There is a detachment of cavalry at Strandja, 4 companies of infantry at Sarai, and, I understand, another half-battalion beyond, probably near Visa.

Advanced Guard.—The advanced guard consists of cavalry, under Mehmet Pasha, whose head-quarters are at Seidler Tchiftlik station, where he has 6 squadrons. The Russians have a cavalry regiment at Tchiftlik-keui, about a mile and a-half off.

Line of Demarcation between Russian and Turkish Forces.—The demarcation line runs from Midia viâ Visa, Kutchuk-keui, Muselim, Menjeret, Khajilar, Karishteran, Musuruply, Dambaslar, Delipetes, Kudikeui, and Karabunar. There is a neutral zone of 3 kilom. between the forces.

The Turkish troops are not in Midia or Visa, but a Turkish Civil Governor is in the latter town.

The demarcation line is occupied by the Turks with cavalry pickets, and behind these are 2 squadrons at Rodosto, and 2 at Karishteran; 1 infantry battalion at Tchorlu and one at Tchataldja are told off for police purposes.

Hairebolu was occupied by the Turks, but being in front of the stipulated line they have retired from it.

Russian Rear-guard.—The Russian rear-guard corps consists of a corps of 3 divisions (the 4th Corps plus a division of the 8th), under General Skobeloff. The General first moved to Lulé Bourgas and thence to Baba Eski, whence he subsequently returned to Lulé Bourgas; his head-quarters are now, I understand, at Hafsa.

Near Seidler Tchiftlik there is a Russian cavalry regiment; and at Lulé Bourgas, 2 cavalry regiments, 1 horse artillery, and 1 Cossack battery, and 1 infantry regiment (or part of a brigade); near Visa the Russians are said to have an infantry regiment, besides cavalry.

There seems to be no immediate intention of evacuating Lulé Bourgas, and the Russian officers there expect to winter there, and add that there will be a whole division in the immediate neighbourhood.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

* There were 9 battalions here on Saturday.

No. 585.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 1266.) [B.B.]

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 17, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1264 of yesterday, transmitting to your Lordship Lieutenant Cherinside's Report upon the state of the country evacuated by the Russian army, I have the honour to state that Colonel Home informs me that "he has heard on authority which he believes to be excellent that there has been some brigandage in the country, but that Turks and Christians have suffered exactly in the same way, and that otherwise the country is perfectly quiet, and no attempts at outrage have been heard of.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 586.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 1271.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 17, 1878.

WITH reference to Colonel Home's despatch to your Lordship No. 22 of to-day, transmitted through me under flying seal, I have the honour to state that I have telegraphed to Mr. Consul-General White in the sense suggested by Colonel Home. I beg to inclose copy of my telegram.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 586.

Sir A. H. Layard to Consul-General White.

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 17, 1878, 1·30 P.M.

COMMISSION for Delimitation of Bulgarian Frontier will probably begin by Silistria-Mangalia line. Party of Roumanian officers and men qualified to survey with requisite instruments should be ready to join Commission. Officer in charge of this party should be authorized to fix boundary marks and make a survey under instructions of Commission, which is to be handed over to the Commission, it being distinctly understood that Roumanian authorities have no further voice in the matter, but must act under orders of Commission. I am instructed by Lord Salisbury to communicate with you in order to come to an arrangement on this subject.

No. 587.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 1273.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 17, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose some extracts from a private letter which I have received from Vice-Consul Calvert, containing information with regard to the state of affairs at Philippopolis and in its neighbourhood, which may be of interest to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 587.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Extract.) *Philippopolis, October* 6, 1878.

MY object in mentioning in my private letter to your Excellency of yesterday the purchase of cattle on a large scale by the Bulgarian peasantry was to draw therefrom the inference that they cannot entertain any very definite expectation of being shortly engaged in a struggle with the Turks. If they know anything at all about the contents of the protests which they are induced to sign, and the object of the demonstrations they are intended to take part in, they have probably been deceived with the assurance that there never will be any necessity of carrying out the threats of resistance which they are made to utter, but that Europe will be induced by their seemingly firm attitude to accord them much greater concessions than she would if the belief were allowed to prevail that they would passively accept any government she chose to elaborate for them. They may also be deluded with the assurance that Russia will back them up, and will never allow them to be coerced into submission by the Turks, or the allies of the Turks.

The early departure of Mr. Black, of the Ottoman Bank, to whom I entrusted my letter of yesterday, prevented me forwarding the foregoing remarks.

With reference to the abstention of the Bulgarian Exarch from taking part in the political intrigues of the day, I believe his attitude to be inspired by prudence chiefly. He is a man of good education, having been educated in France, and he is said to be by no means unintelligent. I am told that he is secretly one of the few Bulgarians who dislike and distrust Russia, and foreseeing no doubt a time when he will have to live on good terms with the Turks, he is careful not to do anything at present which may compromise him with the latter in the future.

The Committee formed here for the purpose of forwarding supplies to the corps of Bulgarian insurgents now forming at Kustendil consists of the following persons:—M. John Gueshoff, M. Isowff, M. Peyeff, and one or two others. Its nominal purpose is to collect succour for the Bulgarians who suffered by the war.

The smaller Committee formed in the suburb of Karoli Aka (Kyila) for sending arms to the Bulgarians in Mount Rhodope consists of less known Bulgarians, but is presided over by the Russian Ogronyhia Nachalnik (or Kaimakam) of the Philippopolis caza. I have not yet learned his name.

* * * * *

I think that I have not yet mentioned to your Excellency that a quantity of left-off clothing (seventy bales) was sent some time ago by the Slav Committee of Moscow for distribution among the Bulgarians of the Eski-Zaghra district.

The distribution was made by John Gueshoff.

P.S.—Petko has been sent to Sofia, probably *en route* for Kistendil, to join the other brigands and insurgent leaders there.

No. 588.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 1274. Very Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 17, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1239 of the 9th instant, relating to the statement made by Prince Lobanoff to Safvet Pasha that Russia was not bound to evacuate Turkish territory occupied by her outside of Eastern Roumelia until three months after the conclusion of a definite Treaty of Peace, I have the honour to state that I have learnt from several of my colleagues that the Russian Ambassador has held precisely the same language to them, and that I have not the slightest doubt that the Grand Vizier's report to me of his conversation with him was strictly accurate.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 589.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 1275. [B.B.]

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 17, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a note I have received from Safvet Pasha expressing the warm acknowledgments of the Sublime Porte for the services rendered by Consul Reade to the Turkish refugees, and requesting me to submit his conduct to the favourable consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 589.

Safvet Pasha to Sir A. H. Layard.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, le* 16 *Octobre*, 1878.

SERVI PACHA, Commissaire Impérial à Varna, nous a signalé à diverses reprises les services que Mr. Reade, Consul-Général d'Angleterre à Roustchouk, ne cesse de rendre aux réfugiés de la guerre.

Je me suis fait un devoir de soumettre à Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan les rapports de Servi Pacha à ce sujet.

C'est avec une vive satisfaction que mon auguste Maître a pris connaissance de l'œuvre de charité entreprise par Mr. Reade, et je viens prier votre Excellence de vouloir bien faire parvenir à cet Agent l'expression des remercîments les plus chaleureux de la Sublime Porte, et le recommander d'une manière toute particulière à la bienveillance du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) SAFVET.

No. 590.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 1276.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 17, 1878.

MUSURUS PASHA has communicated to the Sultan a telegram from the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires in London informing him that the Queen had been graciously pleased to permit Lady Layard to accept the decoration of the "Nishan Shevket" (the Order of Merey), which His Majesty desired to confer upon her. His Majesty invited Lady Layard and myself to dinner yesterday, and then gave her the decoration in question. His Majesty informed Lady Layard that he had founded the Order for the express purpose of showing his gratitude to those ladies who had contributed to the relief of the sick and wounded soldiers during the war and of the refugees, and that it had been his intention that she should be the first to receive it, but that in consequence of the regulations which forbade British subjects from accepting foreign Orders he had been compelled to wait, before conferring the "Nishan Shevket" upon her, until the Queen's permission had been obtained. He had now learnt with great pleasure that Her Majesty had granted it. His Majesty then proceeded himself to invest Lady Layard with the Order, which consists of a handsome star with a chain, from which it is suspended round the neck.

Lady Layard begs your Lordship to have the goodness to convey to the Queen, on her behalf, her high sense of Her Majesty's kindness in permitting her to accept this decoration.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 591.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 1279. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 17, 1878.*

THE Sultan stated to me yesterday that he was still doing all in his power to induce the people of Podgoritza and Spuz to deliver up those places to Montenegro, and he trusted that he would succeed. His Majesty said that the difficulty did not proceed so much from the Mussulmans, who would listen to his advice, and to whom letters had been written by his orders enjoining them to conform to the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin, which he, as Sultan, most earnestly desired to see carried out, but from the Roman Catholics, who formed the large majority of the population and seemed determined not to give themselves up to the Montenegrins. It was a point of honour, His Majesty added, with the Mahommedan Albanians not to desert their Christian fellow-countrymen, and hence the serious difficulties that were experienced in surrendering the two places in question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 592.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 77. Consular.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 17, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 75, Consular, of the 15th instant, I have the honour to inclose a copy of a further Report from Dr. Dickson relative to the conduct of the Russian authorities towards the Turkish sanitary employés at some of the Black Sea ports.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 592.

Dr. Dickson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Constantinople, October 17, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that all the sanitary employés of Bourgas, excepting the doctor, have returned to the capital in consequence of the Russian authorities having prohibited their resuming their duties again. The doctor says he remained behind to wait for instructions as to what course he should follow.

On the other hand, strange to say, the Russian authorities of Sulina and Kustendjé have allowed the Turkish sanitary employés of those places to resume their work, and even to levy the fees; but at Baltchik they are merely authorized to deliver bills of health, but not allowed to encash fees; while at Varna, the Turkish sanitary officers have never been interrupted at all in the performance of their duties. Those of Silivria, Rodosto, and Dédéagatch have resumed their work since the departure of the Russians from those places.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. D. DICKSON.

No. 593.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 1280.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 18, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose extract from an interesting private letter from Vice-Consul Calvert, which I have just received. It will give your Lordship some idea of the steady and persistent attempts that are being made by Prince Dondoukoff Korsakoff to "Russianize" Eastern Roumelia and Bulgaria, and of the kind of rule which is being substituted for that of the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 593.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Private.)
(Extract.) *Philippopolis, October 16, 1878.*

A SET of new laws for the Principality of Bulgaria have just been printed and published. A copy of them was to-day officially transmitted to the Greek Archbishop, and also, I believe, to the heads of the other communities. The Greek Archbishop has asked me what can be meant by promulgating these laws in Roumelia, where a separate Constitution is to prevail.

After the barefaced manner in which the Russians have set Petko at liberty, after Russian officers, who thought they were performing their duty, had arrested him, and sent him to Philippopolis, it is to be hoped they will not in future tax the Turkish Government with lenient treatment of assassins, in reference to Ahmet Agha, Tossoun Bey and others.

The "Maritza" speaks of Petko's release in the following terms:—

"Petko, the famous Bulgarian leader of robbers, with some of his followers, were arrested by the Russian outposts, whom they approached by some mistake, and were brought to town." All the people of Philippopolis know that Petko has committed no robbery or any other crime in the so-called "Eastern Roumelia;" "But that he has operated in the Rhodope mountains, where he was the only protector of the unfortunate Christian population against the bands of robbers whom the Consular (Rhodope) Commission were not ashamed to designate as the 'National Pomak army;' knowing this, the public was greatly moved when it heard that Petko was caught and imprisoned, and all longed with impatience for his release. We learn that soon after his arrest, the Prince began to receive letters from the Rhodope villages, in which the people expressed their gratitude to Petko for protecting them. We hear also that the Prince ordered Petko to be strictly examined, and that from this examination his Excellency was persuaded that Petko's deeds were all committed out of Roumelia and the Bulgarian Principality. The scene of his operations being under Turkey, it is for Turkey to keep the peace there, and not look to Russia to do it for her. Moreover, it is said that the Prince is satisfied that Petko's only intention is to protect the Christians against the Bashi-Bazouks of St. Clair, the Englishman. Wherefore the Prince came to the conclusion that he had no right to judge Petko here, and he ordered him to be conducted, under a guard, to the Russian lines, to be there set at liberty, and allowed to go wherever he pleased. It is said also that his Excellency has forbidden Petko to live in Eastern Roumelia, or in the Bulgarian Principality.

"It is very possible that the English will hear of this incident, and will find in it a new occasion to accuse the Russian administration. They will forget the efforts and intrigues by which they obtained the deliverance of the Turkish murderers (referring to Ahmed Agha, Tossoun Bey, &c.) whose crimes were committed, not beyond the borders, but at Philippopolis and the surrounding district. It is not Petko, but St. Clair that ought to be punished, who, after Petko's imprisonment, availed himself of the opportunity to destroy the village of Tchitak."

The Russian authorities find it necessary to publish the foregoing apology, because the fact of Petko's having fallen into their power and been treated with impunity was too well known to pass unnoticed. But they do not think it necessary to offer similar apologies for harbouring and assisting Voïvodas Georgi, Vassil, and Elia, and other well-known brigands at Köstendil, imagining, perhaps, that their proceedings there are not known.

No. 594.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 1282.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 18, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a very important despatch received this morning from Vice-Consul Calvert, giving information as to a formidable movement for a rising of the Bulgarian and Greek population of Macedonia, fomented and encouraged by the Russian authorities. I shall communicate the substance of Mr. Calvert's despatch to Safvet Pasha.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 594.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Philippopolis, October* 15, 1878.

A PERSON of confidence whom I have employed to proceed to Köstendil and gather information there as to the movement now on foot for creating an insurrection in Macedonia has just returned to Philippopolis, and has communicated to me the following interesting information:—

There is a revolutionary Committee of eight members at Küstendil, in correspondence with the Committees already established at Philippopolis and other places in Roumelia and Bulgaria. The Archbishop of Uskûp is President of this Committee.

The Committee is endeavouring, through the village priests and through special emissaries, to persuade the Bulgarian population of the districts in Russian occupation to join *en masse* the impending revolutionary movement in Macedonia. They have not, however, been so successful as was expected, owing to the dissatisfaction with the Russians which prevails among all the Bulgarians who have come into contact with their liberators.

The argument made use of by these agitators is, in substance, that Russia having now caused the hands of Austria and England to be tied down by the Bosnian insurrection and the Afghanistan difficulty, the Czar has been enabled to promise that, if the Bulgarians succeed in freeing Macedonia from the Turks, he will raise up a powerful Bulgarian kingdom, in which all the Bulgarians of Turkey shall be included.

There are already, according to my informant, 7,080 Bulgarian and Greek volunteers assembled at Köstendil, of whom 2,500 are disbanded soldiers of the Legion, and 1,750 are Macedonian Greeks and Koutzo-Wallachs; the remainder are Bulgarians (robbers, adventurers, and peasants) from all parts of European Turkey.

This force is under the command of a certain Major Alexandroff, a Russian adventurer, who till lately held a commission in the Servian army, which he resigned in order to join the Bulgarian movement. Under him are: Colonel Tchassky, sent out by the Moscow Committee, and who has but just arrived; Elievitch and Gomnovitch, Montenegrins; and Vassil Voïvoda, Georgi Voïvoda, and Elia of Malesh, well-known brigands of Macedonia.

George Voïvoda is a Greek.

This insurgent force is drilled daily for five hours. The men wear no uniform but a sheepskin bonnet (black), with an aigrette in the form of a cross upright on a crescent. Their flag differs from the Bulgarian national flag. It is made of four strips: a white strip, bearing the inscription—"Russia, the Liberator;" a green strip, with the inscription—"Bulgaria;" a red strip, with—"Autonomy of Thrace;" and a black strip, with—"Unhappy Macedonia."

My informant was able to learn, in its chief details, the programme of the malcontents. It is:—

1. To collect and drill as large a force as possible before the severe weather begins, when it is intended to commence operations against the Turks, it being calculated that the latter will fight at a greater disadvantage then than now.

2. Russian soldiers will be incorporated with the insurgents in the proportion of three Russians to two Bulgarians. It is expected by this plan to greatly increase the efficiency of the force, the Russian members of which will wear the same cap and dress as the native combatants.

3. A Russian force of 25,000 infantry, 5,000 cavalry, and two [?] batteries of artillery, will be echelloned along the Macedonian frontier, as a moral—and, perhaps, under certain circumstances, as a material—support for the insurgents. It is even said that these troops will occupy and hold any territory that may be conquered by the insurgents, thus enabling the latter to advance without fear of being attacked in their rear.

4. The insurgents propose to march in the direction of Velès, Uskup, and Bitolia (Monastir).

5. The Archbishop of Uskup will be appointed Governor of all the territory they may subdue.

The Committee has already a number of emissaries in Macedonia, who are travelling about in the disguise of traders, and preparing the people for revolt. It is stated that many Greek villages have promised to join the movement.

The Caza of Pianitchko, which lies partly in the new Bulgaria and partly in Macedonia, has already taken up arms. The inhabitants are all Bulgarians. Out of forty-eight villages in the caza eighteen have remained to Macedonia, and the inhabitants of these have sent their women and children into Bulgaria, and have, in company with the inhabitants of the thirty villages incorporated with Bulgaria, taken to the mountains, under the leadership of their priests, who march with the cross in one hand and a sword in the other.

A fight with Turkish troops took place about a fortnight ago at Tzarewo-Solo, in this caza, and the Turks are reported to have been defeated with the loss of one gun, out of two which they had. The Bulgarians in this encounter mustered about 1,200 men, and the Turks half that number.

The Bulgarian combatants furnished by the Pianitchko Caza number about 3,000 rifles. These are not included in the 7,080 who have been gathered at Küstendil.

When my informant was there it was intended to make a demonstration against Palanka, five hours from Küstendil, within the next week. (I learn from another source that Palanka is only approachable from Küstendil by the Pass of Dové-Baghry (the "Camel's Cry"), which is held by a small force of Turkish troops.

Bulgarian prelates seem to be taking a very active part in the revolutionary movement. The late Exarch, Monsignor Anthimos, who is now Archbishop of Widdin, has telegraphed to the Köstendil Committee that he was about to place himself at the head of 600 volunteers, whom he has collected in his district. The Archbishop of Ochrida (who is now at Philippopolis) will also gird on the sword; the Bishop of Ishtib likewise.

A hospital with full appliances and medical staff has been established at Köstendil with money of the Moscow Committee.

30,000 Martini rifles (taken from the Turks at Widdin), besides Sniders and other weapons, are stored at Köstendil, and will be distributed to the Macedonian villagers who join the insurrection.

The numbers of the Russian and Bulgarian regular troops at present concentrated at Kostendil are as follows:—

Bulgarian infantry of the first levy (raised in May last); 3,000 men. Russians; 8,000 infantry, 1,500 cavalry, one battery artillery. Total, 12,500 men. These are, of course, exclusive of the insurgent forces.

At Sofia there are only Russian troops: 2,000 infantry, 650 cavalry, 1 battery artillery.

At Radomis there are 1,500 Bulgarian infantry; Russian troops, 1,300 infantry, 250 cavalry, no artillery.

At Samakow, 1,000 Bulgarian infantry; Russian troops, 950 infantry, 350 cavalry, 1 battery artillery.

Great quantities of provisions and war material are being brought to Köstendil. My informant passed numerous convoys going in that direction, and one battery of artillery was on the point of starting from Tatar-Bazardjik for Köstendil the day before yesterday.

The insurgent leaders expected to have, by the 22nd instant, a force of 12,000 men, including the 3,000 Bulgarians of the Pianitchko district, and the 600 men enrolled by M. Anthimos at Widdin. To these would be added 18,000 Russians (allowing the proportion of 3 Russians to 2 Bulgarians), which would bring up the force available for active operations, at the commencement of the wintry season, to 30,000 men.

The whole of this force would be available for offensive purposes if, as my

informant learnt, the Russo-Bulgarian regular troops are to undertake the occupation of all subdued territory, and to guard the insurgents' communications with their base of operations.

Most of the foregoing figures, my informant states, were given to him by the insurgent leaders themselves. Probably, therefore, they are exaggerated. But whatever allowance be made for over-statements, it is still evident that a very carefully planned and perhaps formidable movement against the Turks in Macedonia is about to take place.

My informant also made some interesting observations on his way to Köstendil and back. He informs me that from Vetren all the way to Köstendil, nearly every Bulgarian is possessed of a Martini or a Snider rifle taken from the Turks. They have also plenty of ammunition.

In the Caza of Ichtiman he learnt that a committee had been formed, which is actively urging the Bulgarians of that region to oppose the Delimitation Commission, "in order that the whole of that caza may remain to Bulgaria."

He thinks that the existing insurgent movement would be far more popular but for the dislike with which the Russians have succeeded in inspiring the Bulgarians towards them.

It appears that, in the regions visited by my informant, the Russians are behaving in a far more overbearing manner towards the native Christians than they have ever done in the Philippopolis district. Though, in their administration here, they have shown themselves in the last degree corrupt, they have allowed to the Bulgarians a considerable share in the peculation. Whereas, at Sofia, Samakow, and other places in the new Principality, the Russians arrogate to themselves all the administrative posts of any importance, while they treat the Bulgarians with disdain, corrupt their women, and otherwise render themselves very disagreeable.

As to the Turkish inhabitants who have returned, their condition is everywhere the same, except, perhaps, at Samakow. Their lives, property, and honour are continually assailed.

A grave fact in the present situation seems to be the understanding arrived at between the Greeks and the Slavs in Northern Macedonia.

It is not likely that any Greek of education or intelligence will join in the movement; but the Greek peasantry in those parts—even blind or indifferent to the certainty that, if the Slav insurrection is successful, their ethnic individuality will very soon be lost for ever.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

No. 595.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 1284.)
My Lord. *Therapia, October* 18, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship copies of despatches upon matters of interest in their respective Consular districts, which I have received from Her Majesty's Consuls and Vice-Consuls at Adrianople, Bourgas, and Rodosto.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 595.

Acting Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Adrianople, October 10, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that fifty-three repatriated Turkish fugitives returned here from Yamboli by rail the day before yesterday. They had belonged to a party of 110 who were sent on towards their homes in the districts of Yamboli and Slimnia by the Constantinople Commission on the 21st ultimo. Being unprovided, as it appears, with Russian passports, the authorities of Yamboli would not allow these unfortunate people to proceed to their native places, nor yet would they provide food or shelter for them. The refugees have thus remained

encamped near the railway station, and there they have, moreover, within the last few days been exposed to the persecutions of Bulgars from the town who endeavour, by threats and ill-treatment, to extort money from them.

In consequence of this state of things all, who by the sale of their few belongings, can scrape together sufficient money to pay their railway fare are coming back. Those now here state that the refugees who preceded them, and who, being provided with passport, were received in the town and the villages are no less anxious to leave than themselves, as they also are subjected to every kind of ill-treatment and insult. The women's veils are habitually torn off. Last week two girls were violated, one of them being the orphan daughter, aged 16, of one Salih, of the village of Endjeksarli. It is related that this girl was seized by a party of nine Bulgarians, who asked her whether she was married, and on her answering in the negative, six of the party had the grace to say that such being the case they would not touch her. The other three, however, outraged her.

The second case was that of a girl of 13 or 14, whose name my informant did not know, but whose family lived in the quarter of Sofiar at Yamboli. She was said to be in a dying state.

Among the returned fugitives is Husni Aga, lately a sergeant in the first company of the 1st cavalry regiment of the 2nd Army Corps, who was taken prisoner with Ghazi Osman Pasha. He is a native of Tirnova in Bulgaria, and on his return from Russia left for Yamboli by rail twelve days ago, intending to proceed to his former home. He relates that a party of twenty-one other returned prisoners of war, all natives of the district of Karnabad, went by the same train. These consisted of a lieutenant named Mousa Aga, a sergeant, and nineteen privates. On their arrival at Yamboli the Russian authorities asked for their passports, and as they had not been provided with any, they were not allowed to continue their journey. After some days the Karnabad party set off at night without permission, the informant remaining behind.

Next day ten of the privates were brought in bound by a party of Bulgarian gendarmes who captured them. These gendarmes declared that they had killed all the others. Two men in particular boasted of having killed the Turkish officer, namely, a Bulgarian captain, nicknamed "Karafatma," and one Yovantcho, also a Bulgarian, formerly a sergeant in the Servian army, and who was taken prisoner by the Turks and afterwards released. Upon this the informant Husni Aga thought it prudent to come away.

The people from Yamboli state that the condition of the returned fugitives at Slimnia is the same as at their own place. Whilst on their way to Slimnia four women of the former category were carried off by the Bulgarians, and only set free after being kept and outraged during two days.

A similar state of things is also reported from Yeni-Zaghra by a well-to-do inhabitant of Kespitli, one hour from that place, who arrived here to-day. This person informs me that there are no refugees at Yeni-Zaghra of the class now returning from Yamboli, that is, who are not allowed to proceed to their homes because unprovided with passports.

To those now repatriated in the town and villages of Yeni-Zaghra a kilé (about a bushel) of wheat per family was distributed on their arrival. But they find reason bitterly to repent having placed themselves again at the mercy of the Bulgarians. No lives have been taken so far, but they are continually being robbed, and all the good-looking women and girls are carried off and outraged at will at a spot by the banks of the Tundja.

Last week four Bulgars broke into the house of Faris Aga, the above-mentioned inhabitant of Kespitli, and throwing him and his wife down, beat them, and pressed the point of a yataghan and the edge of a hatchet against their bodies to make them produce their money. By these means the ruffians extorted from the wife all their little capital, 100 liras, which they carried off along with whatever was worth taking from the house. Fearing worse, Faris Aga and his wife, with the aid of a faithful Bulgarian, a former shepherd of theirs, escaped from the village, the Bulgarian placing the couple in his cart and covering them over with straw.

Faris Aga informs me that the Bulgarians of the Yeni-Zaghra district, whilst threatening to exterminate the Turkish men and to keep their women, and displaying their ill-will by deeds as well as by words, do not permit any of those among them to go away. The only clue to this circumstance, which is observable in some other parts of the country as well, is apparently to be found in an intention of the kind which I have in a former Report attributed to the Christians on other grounds, the intention,

namely, of reducing such Mussulmans as remain in the country to a state of servitude. The Bulgarians probably reflect that when they become, as they hope, the sole lords of the soil, there will not be hands enough to till the whole of it unless a class of farm-labourers can be created, and the remnant of the despoiled Turkish population must naturally suggest itself as the source from which this want can most conveniently be supplied.

The same informant states that on the arrival of the repatriated refugees at Yeni-Zaghra the Bulgarians said to them, "The English have required that we should receive you back among us. You have come: and now you shall see how we will treat you and your wives and daughters; and then let the English come and help you if they can."

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

11th October.—I learn that a train, engaged for that purpose by the Porte, went through to-day from Yamboli, conveying the remainder of the rejected refugees free of charge to Constantinople; and that thirty families coming from Slimnia also passed up in another train to-day.

E. C.

Inclosure 2 in No. 595.

Acting Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Adrianople, October 12, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the conscripts for the Bulgarian "National Army" who had been levied from certain places within the Province of Adrianople, as reported in my despatch of the 22nd ultimo, were, I am informed, quietly dismissed to their homes about a fortnight ago.

This step is understood to have been taken in consequence of representations made by the Porte, and, it is added, with a view to support the denial of the Russian Representative as to the fact of such conscription having taken place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 595.

Acting Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Adrianople, October 13, 1878.

Sir,

IN my despatch to your Excellency of the 22nd ultimo, I had the honour to report that a pro-Russian agitation had been set on foot in this part of the province, and that an address, or petition, in that sense was being circulated for signature among certain sections of the various Christian communities.

The Greek agents employed in obtaining signatures to the address are understood to be M. Sakellario, formerly Dragoman to the Russian Consulate, and now President of the Civil Tribunal at Adrianople, and M. Kyriazi, formerly Dragoman to the British Consulate, and who is now one of the principal contractors for the Russian army here. Both these gentlemen have lately received Russian decorations.

Considerable precautions have been taken with regard to this address, which is never left in anybody's hands nor presented to any person who is not already known to be disposed to sign it, and who has not been duly sounded beforehand. Although, therefore, in my despatch above mentioned I expressed the hope of obtaining a copy of the document, and although efforts to that end have been made in several quarters, I have only succeeded in learning its general purport, which is stated to be as follows:—

That only since the country has been occupied by the Russian army have the Christian inhabitants begun to feel that they are men; that the petitioners are persuaded of the benevolent disposition of the Sultan, but they have no confidence either in the Turkish army or the Turkish population; and that they greatly regret that Adrianople has not been comprised within Eastern Roumelia, as they had wished.

The petitioners finally pray the Russians not to quit the country, if possible, and in any case to protect the Christian population.

Copies of the petition have been sent to the different cazas, and by the admission of anti-Russian native Christians, it has been numerously signed by members of the Greek community as well as by Bulgarians and Armenians.

The day after the arrival of General Todleben, the Greek Archbishop and the other spiritual Chiefs of communities were invited to come in full canonicals to pay their respects to the Commander-in-chief. Endeavours had vainly been made to induce the Archbishop, who strongly opposes the movement, to witness the signatures to the petition; and as his Eminence had reason to know that it was intended to time the presentation of the petition to General Todleben with his own presence at the audience, so as to lend an appearance of sanction on his part to the proceeding, he excused himself, on the plea of indisposition, from attending. General Todleben (perhaps on account of his being a Protestant) took no direct notice of this transparent pretext; but his second in command, General Stalitsin, is credibly reported to have threatened to send a medical officer to ascertain whether the Archbishop was really ill, and in the contrary case to have him brought by force. No action, however, was eventually taken.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

Inclosure 4 in No. 595.

Acting Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Adrianople, October 13, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the aspect of affairs here has become very warlike. That the Russians intend to remain at Adrianople there is now no doubt whatever. General Todleben stated as much in the course of private conversation with a person here, whose veracity is beyond question. His Excellency alleged as the motive of this decision that Turkey had not executed the conditions of the Treaty of Berlin with regard to the cession of the districts to be annexed to Servia and Montenegro.

The Commander-in-chief visited two or three days ago all the defensive works of the town.

The circulation of goods' traffic by rail between this and Constantinople was stopped on the 10th instant, since which date communication has been kept up only by the daily express passenger train. The rolling stock is not allowed to proceed beyond Tchorlu, at which point a transfer takes place into trains from the Constantinople side. The object of this step is supposed to be that of securing as great a portion of the rolling stock as possible within the Russian lines.

Troops are continually coming in from the north. During the last three days (including to-day) six battalions and three field-batteries have arrived daily, coming from Varna by road. These troops are understood to form part of a division which is on its way, and they are being pushed forward towards the front as they arrive.

Quantities of provisions and military stores are also daily arriving here.

The Russian Intendance, on the 7th instant, entered into a contract with a foreign merchant here for the supply of bread for the troops. By this contract the Intendance only binds itself to accept the supply for a month, but the contractor is bound for the term of six months, at the option of the Intendance, the contract being terminable on three days' notice before the expiration of any month. The quantity contracted for is 96,600 Russian pouds, which for the present are deliverable as follows:—50,000 pouds at Adrianople, 16,800 at Mustafa-Pasha, 16,800 at Haskioi, and 13,000 at Kirk-Kilissa; but the quantities and places of distribution are liable to be differently assorted if the Intendance should so require.

I learn from a reliable source that on the 11th instant the Commander-in-chief, in reply to an inquiry addressed to him by General Skobeleff through the railway telegraph from Tchorlu, ordered the latter to fortify his position at Lulé Bourgas. General Skobeleff has been here thrice since the 7th instant, his last visit having taken place last night, when, after a conference with General Todleben, which lasted a couple of hours, he left again for the front.

A detachment of soldiers, provided with the necessary implements, left last night for Suzli-dereh, a spot about two or two and a-half hours from Adrianople, on the old

high road to Constantinople, where the ground offers facilities for defence, and where it is understood fortified works are to be constructed.

There are increasing signs of an intention to attack the Rhodope insurgents. Besides the concentration of troops on the Lower Arda, which I reported in my despatch of the 6th instant, it is now announced that a large body of "Bulgarian Bashi-Bazouks"—such is the name which they give to themselves—is being collected at Haskioï, with a view to active operations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

P.S.—I just learn that two companies of Russian infantry were yesterday moved forward again to Khafrcholi, which had previously been evacuated by the Russians, and was already occupied by the Ottoman troops.

I had omitted to state that a Russian officer of my acquaintance, lately quartered at Demotica, told me two or three days ago that he was returning to that place, the orders to evacuate it having been countermanded.

E. C.

Inclosure 5 in No. 595.

Acting Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Adrianople, October* 15, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the movement of Christian fugitives from the districts which are being evacuated by the Russians has, within the last three or four days, begun to take large proportions.

A vague feeling of apprehension alone appears to have given rise to this exodus. In no instance, so far as I have been able to ascertain (and I have made inquiry on the subject in various well-informed quarters), has it been caused by excesses on the part of the Mussulman population. As regards the alleged massacres at Enos and Ferrédjik, referred to in my despatch to your Excellency of the 3rd instant, Mr. Vice-Consul Willshire, of Dédéagatch, informs me that, if not entirely false, they are much exaggerated, being confined to isolated acts of personal revenge which the Bulgarians have brought upon themselves.

The movement was at first confined to that section of the Christian population which by acts of pillage and bloodshed had incurred the probability of reprisal. This fact was ascertained by persons who were at the trouble of making confidential inquiries among the fugitives themselves, and it was confirmed to me by a respectable Bulgarian inhabitant of one of the rural districts who came here for a day or two on business.

In the instance, however, of Malgara, during this first period, the emigration was more general, for the following reason:—A notorious evil-doer, a Greek, nicknamed "Hadji Exindar," who had compromised himself by taking a leading part in the massacres committed in various Turkish villages of that district in May and July last, on finding the re-occupation of Malgara by the Turks to be imminent, went about with his band of followers inciting the inhabitants of the town and surrounding villages to take up arms and resist the entry of the Ottoman troops. The peaceably-disposed inhabitants thereupon began to leave, in dread of the threatened conflict. This happened on the 7th instant. When, three days later, Malgara was occupied by a battalion of Turkish troops without incident (the would-be insurgents having meanwhile decamped), the panic subsided and the fugitives began to return. The movement in general had meanwhile slackened.

Since then, however, the exodus has received a new impulse, and crowds of fugitives are now coming in daily by road and by rail from all parts of the country, but chiefly from the districts of Keshan, Malgara, and Uzoun-Keupry. In many villages, I am assured, the inhabitants in their panic have left their flocks and herds behind. The movement appears to be as unreasoning as that of a flock of sheep. Because the inhabitants of a given place see their neighbours behind them flying they do the same, without stopping to inquire whether those neighbours have had any better reason than themselves for taking to flight. The primary cause which has given an impetus to the movement, nobody seems to know; but it is certain that Russian policy which at first discountenanced the exodus, does so no longer. The St. Petersburgh Government in this has evidently adopted the suggestion which General Todleben informed me he had made on the subject; and the language of Russian

officials here (and presumably in other places as well), by emphatically foreboding anarchy and massacre on the withdrawal of their troops, is calculated to promote, if it has not actually caused, the panic and the exodus which is its consequence. The authorities, who actually sent back the first batch of fugitives (belonging to the compromised class), now accord them every facility in their flight.

Whatever may be the motives of the policy in question, it will obviously serve to enlist the interests of the self-dispossessed Christian proprietors in favour of active intervention in the southern districts of this province should it suit Russia at any time to take steps to that end.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

Inclosure 6 in No. 595.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Bourgas, October* 2, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that General Todleben arrived at Bourgas on the 30th September, having visited, before landing here, the new piers, camp, &c., at Tchinguéné Skellioi, on the other side of the bay.

On the pier here a Russian flag had been hoisted with the inscription "Russia-Roumelia" on it, the work, I believe, of a Bulgarian employé; on its being noticed by the Russian chef-de-police, he had the flag wrapped round its pole (so as to prevent its floating) before the arrival of the Commander-in-Chief.

General Todleben left for Adrianople yesterday morning.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

Inclosure 7 in No. 595.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Bourgas, October* 5, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that on the 29th September the Russian Governor of Slimnia, who had come to Bourgas to receive General Todleben, definitively refused to allow the Turkish or any other employés of the International Sanitary Commission of Turkey to enter upon the execution of their duties within this district.

He added that he "had plenty of doctors, &c., to undertake all the quarantine duties, but as they (the Turks) drew their pay from Constantinople, he saw no objection to their remaining at Bourgas and getting their salaries, so long as they would not pretend to any official character or functions."

I am informed that during General Todleben's stay here a Memorial was presented to him from various Bulgar villages of the interior, expressing their intention never again to accept (even nominal) Turkish rule, and their determination to resist "to the last drop of their blood," any attempt to impose it upon them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

Inclosure 8 in No. 595.

Vice-Consul Dussi to Consul-General Fawcett.

M. le Consul, *Rodosto, le 10 Octobre*, 1878.

J'AI eu l'honneur de vous écrire le 5 courant. Je forme la présente pour vous informer d'après les renseignements que je viens de recevoir du Gouverneur de ce district, que les troupes Russes ont repris possession de Hainbol et ont obligé les troupes Turques à se replier sur Tchorlou, à une distance de trois heures. D'un autre côté le General Sitaloff, à la tête de 4,000 hommes, a repris possession de Viza. Les autorités Ottomanes ont été retenues dans la ville, mais ont cessé leurs fonctions. Les

troupes Turques bivouaquent aux environs de la ville. Le Général interrogé sur sa manière d'agir aurait répondu qu'il agissait ainsi pour protéger la marche des troupes Russes. Lulé Bourgas n'a pas encore été livré. Les autorités Turques qui doivent résider en cette ville sont à Tchorlou. Les troupes Turques, destinées à cette localité, sont arrêtées a Seidiler: 2,500 Bulgares et Grecs se sont enrôlés dans la milice nationale. Le Général Skobeleff leur aurait donné 2,000 poles* pour leurs frais. En attendant, toujours d'après le dire du Gouverneur, ils se livrent à des actes de brigandage.

Une grande panique règne parmi les populations Chrétiennes qui émigrent en masse. Plusieurs assassinats et actes de brigandage sont commis la nuit dans l'intérieur; malheureusement on en ignore les auteurs qui peuvent facilement trouver l'impunité en passant sur le territoire occupé par les Russes.

Vous priant, M. le Consul, de vouloir bien communiquer la teneur de ce rapport à son Excellence,

Veuillez agréer, &c.
(Signé) M. DUSSI.

Inclosure 9 in No. 595.

Vice-Consul Dalziel to Consul R. Reade.

Sir, *Varna, October* 16, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the 13th Corps of the Russian army has now left this place for some destination south of the Balkans. The officers give out for Adrianople, and an Effendi of the konak told me he believed it was for Sofia. Their head-quarter Staff left last Sunday by rail for Shumla.

These troops are being replaced by another corps, said to be the 12th.

From the arrival of the Russians here, about the 8th or 9th August till now, I am informed they have sent by rail to Rustchuk about 2,000 invalids.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. DALZIEL.

No. 596.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 81. Political.) [B.B.]

My Lord, *Scutari, October* 12, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copies of a despatch and its inclosure addressed this day by me to Sir Henry Layard, on the subject of the refugees who wish to return to their homes at Antivari and in the districts conquered by Montenegro.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 596.

Consul Kirby Green to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Scutari, October* 12, 1878.

I HAVE already had the honour of informing your Excellency by telegraph that the Mahommedan and Christian fugitives from Antivari and other districts on the western side of Lake Scutari, now in the hands of the Montenegrins, have appealed to me for assistance to enable them to obtain permission from the Turkish authorities here to return to their homes.

The inclosed translation of a petition addressed to me by the chief inhabitants of two Mahommedan villages in the Kraïa district will not only give your Excellency an idea of their own sufferings, but also serve as a true picture of the position and wishes of all the refugees.

I did not venture to trouble your Excellency on this matter until I had made a representation to Hussein Pasha on behalf of the fugitives, and after I had ascertained

* Qy. roubles.

that the personal feelings of the Government were to be considered more than the fate of those most concerned.

Hussein Pasha assured me that the opposition to the return home of the people in question arose entirely from the side of Montenegro; but those who had attempted to pass informed me they had been sent back from the Turkish, and not from the Montenegrin lines.

It is true, I believe, that Prince Nicholas is indisposed to allow Mahommedans to reoccupy their villages, but it would be well for the fact to be clearly established, so that provision may be made for the subsistence of the refugees, or that the fulfilment of the XXXth Article of the Treaty of Berlin should be invoked in their favour.

The Prince of Montenegro is so anxious to avoid any action which may tend to leave on the public mind the impression that he has been availing himself of the opportunity afforded by the indifference of the Turkish authorities to appropriate to himself the olive and other crops of those who have become his subjects through conquest that, I am convinced, a claim coming from a properly authorized channel for the re-entry into possession by the refugees would meet with equitable and satisfactory attention.

The plea that Podgoritza and the other ceded towns remain to be given up would hardly be urged by His Highness as a reason for further suffering on the part of people whose lands he already holds, and who are willing to acknowledge him as their Sovereign.

The detention of these Mahommedans in Scutari without any effort being made by the Turkish Government to secure their present or future welfare is an act of bad policy, which is only equalled by that which endeavours to prevent them re-occupying the territory ceded to Montenegro. 5,000 or 6,000 Mahommedans inhabiting Antivari and the mountains on the western shores of Lake Scutari would, should Prince Nicholas ever wish to renew hostilities against Turkey, employ a very considerable portion of His Highness' troops in watching them, and would render Montenegro much more vulnerable than hitherto.

The excuse that these Mahommedans would immediately begin to molest the Montenegrins, and thus inculpate the Turkish authorities, is baseless, as once in Montenegrin territory, the refugees would only be amenable to its jurisdiction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 596.

Mahommedan Inhabitants of Kraïa to Consul Kirby Green.

(Translation.)

Sir, *Scutari, October* 7, 1878.

THE here undersigned most unfortunate chiefs of twelve forsaken families, humbly make to you, Sir, the present petition with the earnest prayer to be good enough to take into consideration the miserable and adverse condition in which they find themselves in order to support their demands with the governing authorities.

The petitioners are from the villages of Kerstegna and Martigi, in the Kraïa. Since Montenegro occupied, devastated, and burnt their villages and their goods they have been in Scutari, leading a most disastrous and exhausting life, deprived of everything most necessary for their sustenance. In the beginning the Government assigned to them a given quantity of Indian corn wherewith to feed their unfortunate and numerous families, but this Indian corn, instead of alleviating their sufferings, more generally increased them, for, although rotten and stinking, they were forced to eat it so as not to die of hunger. But this was only an allusion, because, if they did not die of hunger, they died of a much more cruel death occasioned by this rotten Indian corn, so that in a short time 240 individuals died who had fled from their devastated and pillaged hearths in the Kraïa.

Up to the present time the few remaining alive having, under a thousand difficulties, managed to preserve their lives, now find themselves in the most miserable and deplorable state, as they are deprived of every worldly good and of all assistance, and as they have spent the little which they had saved from devastation and fire in rent for lodgings and for subsistence, they now find themselves without lodgings and without anything to maintain life, as they have no further means of paying rent and are unable to find any work to do.

Owing to this state of misery they have resolved to return to their villages in order to cultivate the lands belonging to them, so as to obtain something wherewith to feed their families; otherwise if they prolonged their sojourn here, being in the public streets without a roof and without any food, they would certainly be brought to share the fate of their companions (already dead).

Knowing by public report how great is the generosity of your heart and your philanthropy and the commiseration which you feel for the unfortunate, reduced to this miserable state through no fault of their own, the petitioners turn with confidence towards your benevolent heart in order that, as an act of charity, for the love of God and humanity, you should be pleased to intervene with the governing authorities so as to obtain permission for them (the petitioners) to return to their villages, that they may not perish here, which God would not ordain nor the Sultan.

The return to their villages is a matter of great pain to the petitioners, but they are driven by necessity. They have always been faithful subjects of the Sultan, and they declare themselves such still. If the Government opposes their return let it provide them with the necessary shelter and food, and the petitioners would then be quite prepared to renounce every wish to return to their homes.

The petitioners venture to hope that you, Sir, will listen to this prayer of theirs as an act of humanity and commiseration. In the meantime they, with profound respect, declare themselves, yours, &c.

(Signed) VELI ADEMI.
BEGIR SUCCA.
HASSAN ETHEMI.
HADJI TAHIRI.
BRAHIM BAIRAMI.
ISSUF BETTOIA.
SELMAN SULLA.
NESIR BARLI.
IDRIS UMERI.
HASSAN ALIA.
BEGIR SENELI.
UMER ASSANI.

No. 597.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 82. Political.) [B.B.]

My Lord, *Scutari, October 14, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the Turkish authorities have issued orders for the erection of a new hospital at Podgoritza, and that a number of huts are being built at the same place as winter quarters for the troops there.

The Albanians accept these preparations as an assurance that the Turkish Government has no intention of speedily evacuating Podgoritza.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 598.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 61. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October 14, 1878.*

LAST night I had a long and interesting conversation at the British Embassy with Count Hatzfeld.

His Excellency began by saying that he hoped the Commission would soon go to Philippopolis, where it could work more practically than at Constantinople.

I quite agreed in this view, as it is very difficult here to do any work between the sittings of the Commission, owing to the Commissioners being scattered at large intervals from Stamboul to Buyukdéré.

The German Ambassador went on to say that he was afraid we had not gone to work in a practical manner, and that we had too much touched on "questions de fond" and on principles.

He thought we should apply ourselves to the questions clearly indicated by the Treaty.

I then said I had better tell him my whole views on the past proceedings.

On coming here I was possessed with the feeling that the Commission was appointed to carry out certain details of the Treaty of Berlin in an amicable manner, all being animated by the same sentiment.

This was still my view, but on my arrival I found that declarations were made by Russian authorities which entirely set aside the Treaty of Berlin. So long as these rumours were non-authenticated I paid no attention to them, but when Prince Dondoukoff deliberately announced them to Lord Donoughmore, I was continually impressed with the importance of the announcement, the more so, as more than once it seemed to be confirmed, though in calmer language, by the Russian Commissioners themselves. Besides this, I also felt that Prince Tzeretelew raised constant difficulties. When I first came here I found that all the Ambassadors, including Prince Labanoff, had been pressing the Porte to name a Commissioner, but at my first interview with Prince Tzeretelew, he raised the question of the right of Turkey to name one at all.

How was it possible to do business when we found obstacles raised by the Commissioners which had been settled by the Ambassador, and when the declarations of Prince Dondoukoff, with all the authority of his position, and I must add also those of General Skobeloff, cut at the very root of our powers?

Count Hatzfeld replied that too much weight should not be given to Prince Tzeretelew, who was known to be fond of raising discussions. It would be very different when we arrived at Philippopolis.

He had heard of Prince Dondoukoff's conversation with Lord Donoughmore, which he considered "an incident regretable." But when we were at Philippopolis we should learn not to attach too much importance to his remarks.

Prince Dondoukoff had declared at one time he would not recognize the Consuls, but in a very short time he gave way; in fact, we should find a very great difference between the acts and words of the Government as represented by Prince Labanoff and those of Prince Dondoukoff.

The Ambassador regretted that Baron de Ring had raised the question of the control of the Commission over the Administration; I said that a certain control was inevitable from our administration of the finances.

His Excellency replied that the Russians do not deny that a certain control must be derived from our undisputed rights to the financial administration. When on the spot we should discover that we possessed control sufficient for all practical purposes, but it was not necessary to raise the issue.

I said this in reply, that I was very much obliged to him for his remarks, which coincided in a great manner with my own views. I had not come to Turkey to remain indefinitely, but to endeavour to carry out the practical details of the Treaty of Berlin within the period fixed, and I should not raise questions of principle except when they are to my mind necessary for the carrying out of details.

His Excellency must see that I could not make advances to the Russian Commissioners any more than I expected them to do so to me.

On both sides they might be misinterpreted as signs of weakness.

But I could assure his Excellency, and I should be glad if he would say so to the Russian Commissioners, that my desire and object was to act cordially with them in carrying out the objects of our Mission.

I did not want to make the Commission a "champ de bataille," but to discuss in the most friendly manner the details we were given to elaborate.

So long as the Treaty of Berlin was not called in question, there was no need of any discussion beyond the calm arguments inevitable in the transaction of serious business.

His Excellency said he would always be ready to help the Commission to arrive at a practical result.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 599.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 62.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 14, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose the office copy of the First Protocol of the Commission, attested by the Secretaries, together with other printed copies of the same document.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 599.

Commission Européenne de la Roumélie Orientale.

Protocole No. 1.—Séance du $\frac{13}{25}$ Septembre, 1878 (3 *Chéwal* 1295), *à Cavalidja.*

LES Puissances signataires du Traité de Berlin ayant institué une Commission chargée d'élaborer d'accord avec la Porte Ottomane l'organisation de la Roumélie Orientale, les Commissaires de l'Allemagne, de l'Autriche-Hongrie, de la France, de la Grande Bretagne, de l'Italie, de la Russie, et de la Turquie se sont réunis le 30 Septembre, 1878, à 11 heures du matin, au yali de Son Altesse le Grand Vizir Safvet Pacha, à Cavalidja sur le Bosphore.

Etaient présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. de Braunschweig, Vice-Consul, Commissaire;

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. de Kallay, Chambellan de Sa Majesté Impériale et Royale Apostolique, Commissaire;

Pour la France—
Le Baron de Ring, Ministre Plénipotentiaire, Commissaire, et
M. de Contouly-Dorset, Consul, Commissaire adjoint;

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
Sir Henry Drummond Wolff, Membre du Parlement, Commissaire, et
Le Comte de Donoughmore, Pair du Parlement, Commissaire adjoint;

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Chevalier Vernoni, Premier Drogman de la Légation d'Italie à Constantinople, Commissaire;

Pour la Russie—
M. Schepelew, Colonel d'Etat-Major, Premier Commissaire, et
Le Prince Tzerelelew, Gentilhomme de la Chambre de Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Russie, Consul-Général à Philippopoli, Deuxième Commissaire;

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Assim Pacha, Muchir, Sénateur de l'Empire, Premier Commissaire, et
Abro Effendi, Fonctionnaire de Premier Rang, Directeur du Contentieux au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères Ottoman, Deuxième Commissaire.

Avant le commencement de la séance, *son Altesse Safvet Pacha* fait aux Commissaires les honneurs de sa résidence et leur souhaite la bienvenue.

"La Sublime Porte, dit-il, suivra les travaux de la Commission avec le plus vif intérêt et elle secondera de son mieux les efforts des Représentants des Puissances pour assurer le bien-être des habitants d'une province cruellement éprouvée. Le pire des fléaux qui ont sévi sur cette partie de l'Empire est la discorde entre les différents groupes de la population. C'est là le mal auquel il est le plus urgent de remédier."

En terminant, le Grand Vizir annonce aux Commissaires que son Gouvernement prépare un projet d'organisation de la Roumélie Orientale qui sera prochainement soumis à leurs délibérations.

Les Commissaires entrent en séance à midi.

Le Premier Commissaire du Gouvernement Impérial de Russie, *M. le Colonel Schepelew*, propose à la Commission de décider que son Excellence Assim Pacha, Commissaire de la Sublime Porte, présidera les cinq premières séances, mais que, par la suite, les Délégués des Puissances seront Présidents à tour de rôle, suivant l'ordre alphabétique des Etats qu'ils sont chargés de représenter.

D'après le Commissaire de Sa Majesté Britannique, le principe de l'alternat devrait être mis en vigueur dès que la Commission aura transporté son siége dans la Roumélie Orientale, mais *Sir Henry Drummond Wolff* estime que la Présidence doit être réservée au Représentant de la Sublime Porte, tant que les séances auront lieu dans la capitale de l'Empire Ottoman.

Après une vive discussion entre tous les membres de la Commission et dans laquelle les Délégués du Gouvernement Ottoman soutiennent que la Présidence devrait appartenir d'une manière permanente au Représentant de la Sublime Porte, la formule suivante, présentée par le Commissaire de France, est adoptée à l'unanimité:—

"La Commission offre la Présidence au Premier Commissaire de la Sublime Porte pour toutes les séances qui précéderont le départ de la dite Commission pour la Roumélie Orientale.

"Elle établit d'ailleurs qu'à partir du jour où elle siégera à Philippopoli, la Présidence alternera de quinzaine en quinzaine entre les Commissaires, suivant l'ordre alphabétique des Puissances."

Son Excellence Assim Pacha prend place au fauteuil de la Présidence.

Le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie, *M. de Kallay*, propose de nommer Secrétaire M. Rozet, attaché à l'Ambassade de France à Constantinople.

Le Baron de Ring demande à ses collègues d'adjoindre à M. Rozet M. Isvolsky, Secrétaire du Consulat-Général de Russie à Philippopoli, et un Secrétaire Ottoman, à désigner par les Commissaires de la Sublime Porte.

Ces propositions étant acceptées, MM. Rozet et Isvolsky sont introduits et prennent place au bureau.

Le Colonel Schepelew invite l'Assemblée à décider si les procès-verbaux de ses séances auront la forme de Protocoles ou de simples compte-rendus.

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff dit que des Protocoles lui sembleraient préférables. Après de courtes observations de MM. de Braunschweig et Vernoni, qui s'expriment dans le même sens, la Commission adopte cette manière de voir et charge M. Rozet de la rédaction des Protocoles.

M. Vernoni demande si les Protocoles seront copiés à la main, imprimés ou autographiés.

Les membres de la Commission, après un échange de vues à ce sujet, paraissent, conformément à l'avis exprimé par les Commissaires de la Grande-Bretagne et d'Autriche-Hongrie, préférer l'impression à tout autre mode de reproduction des Protocoles, et prient le Secrétaire de prendre le plus tôt possible des renseignements permettant de donner à cette question la solution la plus pratique.

La Commission décide en outre que le bureau se chargera de tenir la comptabilité et de faire la répartition de tous les frais généraux.

M. de Ring fait remarquer à l'Assemblée qu'il serait utile de déposer toutes les motions par écrit, en deux exemplaires.

M. Schepelew demande que le Président, après avoir consulté la Commission, fixe à la fin de chaque séance l'ordre du jour de la séance suivante. Il pense que les motions ne devront pas être discutées le jour même de leur présentation, à moins qu'à la demande de l'un des membres, la Commission ne prononce l'urgence.

Ces deux propositions sont adoptées.

La question du secret des discussions étant soulevée par MM. les Délégués de Russie, la Commission décide qu'il est inutile de prendre à cet égard des engagements formels, et qu'elle s'en rapporte à la discrétion de ses membres.

M. de Braunschweig demande à la Commission de déclarer qu'elle refusera toute pétition contraire aux stipulations du Traité de Berlin.

M. le Commissaire d'Italie présente l'amendement dont la teneur suit:—

"La Commission ne pourra prendre en considération qui les pétitions munies de signatures qui seraient adressées, soit à son Président, soit à tous ses membres collectivement.

"Elle rejettera *à priori* toute pétition dont l'objet tendrait à porter atteinte aux dispositions du Traité de Berlin."

Cet amendement est appuyé par Assim Pacha, Abro Effendi, et Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

Le Prince Tzeretelew voudrait que la Commission acceptât la discussion de toute pétition présentée par un de ses membres. Il pense d'ailleurs, comme ses collègues d'Italie, de Turquie, et de la Grande Bretagne, que l'on devrait repousser toute pétition dont l'objet sortirait de la compétence de la Commission.

M. de Contouly exprime l'avis qu'il serait bon de former une Sous-Commission chargée d'examiner, de trier, et de présenter les pétitions. Il propose en outre de faire savoir à l'avance que toute requête non-accompagnée d'une traduction Française ne pourra être acceptée.

Son Excellence Assim Pacha et *Abro Effendi* partagent cette manière de voir.

Le Deuxième Commissaire de Russie désire que les pétitions soient déposées sur le bureau où chacun pourrait les consulter.

M. de Kallay, résumant le débat, formule les propositions suivantes :—

"Les pétitions ne peuvent être adressées qu'au Président ou à la Commission.

"Il sera nommé une Sous-Commission chargée de dépouiller les pétitions. Elle rejettera *à priori* toutes celles qui seraient contraires au Traité de Berlin.

"Toutes les pétitions ou requêtes présentées à la Commission devront être accompagnées d'une traduction Française.

"La Sous-Commission présentera une liste raisonnée des pétitions admises par elle; chaque membre aura le droit de demander la mise à l'ordre du jour de toute requête ainsi introduite; mais la discussion ne pourra s'engager sur une pétition qu'avec l'assentiment unanime des Commissaires."

Ces diverses dispositions sont successivement votées.

La Sous-Commission des pétitions se composera de MM. de Contouly, Lord Donoughmore, le Prince Tzeretelew, et Abro Effendi.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff fait remarquer qu'il ne serait pas convenable de pousser plus avant les travaux de la Commission, si les pouvoirs de chacun de ses membres n'étaient au préalable déposés sur le bureau.

Son Excellence Assim Pacha et *Abro Effendi* partagent l'avis du Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne, mais ils annoncent à leurs collègues que les Commissaires Ottomans n'ont pas encore en main leurs pouvoirs et qu'ils ne pourront, en conséquence, en faire la remise qu'à la prochaine séance. Ils les prient pour cette raison d'ajourner la formalité de l'échange des pouvoirs.

Le Prince Tzeretelew donne lecture de la déclaration suivante :—

"L'Article XVIII du Traité de Berlin stipule un accord entre la Porte Ottomane et la Commission Européenne pour l'élaboration de l'organization de la Roumélie Orientale. La Porte ayant désigné deux Délégués au sein de notre Commission a manifesté par là son intention de prendre part à nos travaux, et d'exprimer par l'organe de ses Commissaires l'accord mentionnée par le Traité. Il nous paraît donc évident que le vote des Délégués Ottomans sera obligatoire pour la Porte dans la même mesure que celui des autres Commissaires pour leurs Gouvernements respectifs, et que la Commission ayant une fois terminé ses travaux ne pourra plus être appelée à reprendre ou à recommencer son œuvre."

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff ne croit pas que la question soulevée par le Prince Tzeretelew dans la déclaration qui vient d'être lue soit de la compétence de la Commission. Il ne voit pas pourquoi la Porte seule serait obligée de déclarer son intention d'exécuter le Traité. Si, après la fin des travaux de la Commission, la Turquie n'exécutait pas les décisions prises, les Puissances auraient à aviser.

Le Prince Tzeretelew ne doute pas un seul instant que: "La promulgation du Firman étant un acte souverain, la Commission ne saurait, sans sortir de sa compétence, discuter à quel point la promulgation est obligatoire pour la Turquie. Mais il voudrait que l'on éclairât dès à présent le sens de 'l'accord' mentionné par l'Article XVIII

du Traité de Berlin, et qu'il fût bien entendu que les Commissaires Ottomans étaient liés dans la même mesure que les autres Commissaires par leur vote, l'accord demandé par l'Article XVIII ne sera pas interprété dans le sens d'une nouvelle révision ou d'un remaniement des travaux de la Commission."

M. de Braunschweig est également d'avis que l'accord mentionné par l'Article XVIII se manifeste par le fait même du vote des Commissaires Ottomans.

Abro Effendi est d'avis qu'il doit y avoir débat sur la déclaration lue par le Prince Tzeretelew, mais qu'il est désirable de remettre toute discussion à l'une des prochaines séances.

MM. de Ring et *de Braunschweig* proposent de mentionner au Protocole la lecture faite par M. le Deuxième Commissaire de Russie, en ajoutant que les Commissaires Ottomans se réservent de toucher dans une prochaine séance les points visés, et que la Commission passe outre.

La Commission approuve

Sir H. Drummond Wolff annonce qu'il se réserve comme ses collègues Ottomans de répondre ultérieurement au Prince Tzeretelew.

Revenant sur la question des documents dont l'échange a été demandé, *M. de Braunschweig* déclare qu'il n'a pas reçu de pleins pouvoirs. Il ne possède qu'une lettre lui annonçant sa nomination à titre provisoire. Cette pièce qui contient en même temps ses instructions particulières ne paraît guère susceptible d'être communiquée.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff a des pleins pouvoirs signés par Sa Majesté la Reine et Impératrice, lesquels lui donnent autorité de faire et d'exécuter tous actes quelconques conformes aux stipulations du Traité de Berlin qui lui paraîtraient nécessaires et utiles à l'œuvre de la Commission. "Il serait convenable, dit-il, que tous les Commissaires fussent munis de pleins pouvoirs analogues, ou tout au moins d'une pièce formelle émanant de leurs Gouvernements. Le dépôt de pièces de ce genre sur le bureau de la Commission est devenu absolument nécessaire à la suite de la déclaration du Prince Tzeretelew."

M. de Ring possède une ampliation du décret qui le nomme Commissaire du Gouvernement Français. Ce décret a été signé par le Président de la République et contresigné par le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères. La nomination du Commissaire Français a du reste été notifiée par le Gouvernement de la République aux diverses Puissances intéressées.

M. Vernoni dit avoir la copie d'une dépêche annonçant sa nomination à M. le Chargé d'Affaires d'Italie à Constantinople.

M. de Kallay a reçu un office du Ministère des Affaires Etrangères d'Autriche-Hongrie lui faisant part de la décision du Gouvernement Impérial et Royal qui l'a désigné pour remplir les fonctions de Commissaire en Roumélie Orientale.

Les Commissaires de Russie et *d'Allemagne* ne s'engagent pas à présenter des pleins pouvoirs à la prochaine séance. Ils se réservent de demander, s'il y a lieu, des instructions à leurs Gouvernements; mais ils font remarquer qu'il n'est guère d'usage dans les Commissions d'avoir des pleins pouvoirs.

Abro Effendi fait observer que les membres de la Commission du Liban dont il faisait partie en 1860-61 avaient des pleins pouvoirs.

Le Commissaire Français propose que dans le cas où les pouvoirs d'un ou de plusieurs membres ne seraient pas jugés suffisants dans la forme, les travaux de la Commission ne subissent de ce fait aucune interruption.

La Commission adopte cette manière de voir.

M. Vernoni voudrait savoir si à l'avenir la Commission pourra prendre ses décisions à la majorité des voix; ce système lui paraîtrait le meilleur.

La question sera mise à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine séance.

Le Commissaire de France demande à développer une motion tendant à procurer à la Commission les éléments d'information dont elle a besoin pour aborder une partie importante du travail qui lui est confié.

Le Baron de Ring donne lecture des considérations suivantes :—

"D'après le Traité de Berlin, Messieurs, la Commission de la Roumélie Orientale est investie d'un mandat complexe. Elle est chargée, d'une part, d'élaborer des lois organiques réglant l'administration ainsi que le régime judiciaire, financier et militaire de la nouvelle province; d'autre part, elle est appelée à contrôler l'administration qui fonctionnera en Roumélie Orientale jusqu'au jour où l'organisation prévue par le Traité de Berlin entrera en vigueur; car, si on lui déniait cette attribution, il dépendrait de l'administration provisoire, quelle qu'elle fût, de rendre d'avance notre œuvre

illusoire; enfin la Commission doit elle-même faire acte d'administration en prenant en main la gestion des finances Rouméliotes.

"Cette dernière partie de notre tâche en sera peut-être la plus épineuse. J'eusse voulu pour ma part qu'elle nous fût épargnée. Mais l'Europe en a jugé autrement. Or, il ne nous appartient ni d'amender, ni de critiquer son œuvre. Notre mission se borne à l'appliquer, en nous inspirant de l'esprit de justice et de conciliation dont les Ministres et Ambassadeurs des Puissances se sont montrés animés à Berlin.

"Pour organiser immédiatement sous notre autorité un service financier en Roumélie, trois combinaisons s'offrent à nous.

"La première consisterait à remettre en fonctions les organes chargés de cette branche de l'administration publique avant la guerre.

"La deuxième consisterait à prendre au service de la Commission les agents institués par l'autorité militaire Russe.

"La troisième enfin consisterait à organiser un personnel mixte avec le concours de financiers expérimentés, sans couleur politique, et offrant à l'Europe aussi bien qu'aux populations intéressées de sérieuses garanties.

"Permettez-moi, Messieurs, d'examiner rapidement avec vous chacune de ces trois combinaisons.

"Celle que j'ai indiquée en premier lieu, m'apparaît, je n'hésite pas à le dire, impossible à appliquer.

"Le personnel Turc qui administrait avant la guerre les finances des contrées dont le Traité de Berlin a fait la Roumélie Orientale, est détruit ou dispersé. S'il pouvait être reconstitué, les agents dont il se composerait rencontreraient auprès des populations un mauvais vouloir de nature à les entraver à chaque pas.

"La deuxième combinaison, celle que l'on pourrait peut-être appeler la combinaison Russe, se présente en apparence comme la plus simple et la plus pratique. Néanmoins elle soulève également des objections. D'abord, rien ne prouve que les employés Russes qui se trouvent actuellement à la tête des finances Roumélintes consentent à passer du service de leur pays au service de la Commission. Puis, sans suspecter la loyauté de ceux qui se prêteraient à notre désir, n'aurions-nous pas à craindre que par la force de l'habitude, ils ne continuassent à chercher des inspirations auprès de l'autorité militaire dont ils relèvent aujourd'hui; et cette tendance naturelle, et même respectable dans son principe, ne pourrait-elle pas engendrer des conflits?

"Je ne veux pas m'appésantir d'avantage sur ce sujet; je me borne à le signaler en passant à vos réflexions.

"Reste la troisième combinaison, celle que consisterait à appeler à votre aide des financiers neutres, estimés et expérimentés, qui créeraient en Roumélie, sous notre contrôle, un personnel où l'élément indigène trouverait la place qui lui est légitimement due. Cette combinaison, Messieurs, serait, à mon avis, la meilleure. Reste à savoir si elle est réalisable. En ce moment, je n'en sais rien encore. Pour nous en assurer, je vous propose de nous mettre, sans délai, en relation avec le premier établissment financier de l'Orient: la Banque Ottomane, et de déléguer à cet effet l'un d'entre nous. J'ai formulé par écrit la motion que je vous ai annoncée. Avant de vous en donner lecture, je répéterai encore qu'elle tend uniquement à nous procurer des éléments d'information, et que son adoption n'engagerait pour l'avenir le vote d'aucun des Commissaires.

"En voici les termes:—

Motion.

"La Commission Européenne délègue un de ces membres pour se mettre en rapport avec les Directeurs de la Banque Impériale Ottomane, à l'effet d'étudier les conditions auxquelles cet établissement financier se chargerait éventuellement, dans la Roumélie Orientale de percevoir, sous le contrôle de la Commission, les contributions directes et indirectes, ainsi que les revenus des propriétés de l'Etat, d'en encaisser le montant, et d'opérer, après ordonnancement par la Commission, les paiements qui seraient à la charge de la province.

"Il est d'ailleurs entendu qu'au cas où un arrangement de cette nature serait conclu, la Banque Impériale Ottomane ne pourrait employer aucune somme encaissée par elle, ni à des opérations de banque, ni au règlement de ses comptes avec le Gouvernement de la Sublime Porte.

Il est également entendu que cet arrangement avec la Banque Ottomane ne préjugerait pas les décisions à prendre par la Commission Européenne, d'accord avec la Sublime Porte, pour l'organisation définitive du régime financier de la nouvelle province."

M. Schepelew: "Cette proposition est d'une grande portée, elle mérite un examen approfondi.

"Je me borne à signaler pour le moment qu'en ce qui concerne la Délégation du Gouvernement Impérial de Russie, elle s'est déjà préoccupée de vous procurer des éléments sérieux d'information. Elle espère, dès votre arrivée à Philippopoli, être à même de vous fournir des renseignements complets sur les systèmes financier et administratif actuellement en vigueur dans la Roumélie Orientale. Une traduction Française des règlements édictés par l'autorité Russe se prépare en ce moment et vous sera communiquée le plus tôt possible."

M. de Ring prend note de ces paroles et constate qu'en faisant une offre si gracieuse, le Commissaire de Russie est allé au devant des désirs de la Commission.

Le Président, avec l'assentiment de la Commission, met à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine séance, fixée à jeudi 3 Octobre:—

1. La question des pleins pouvoirs;

2. La question de savoir si les résolutions de la Commission pourront être prises à la majorité des votants;

3. La motion de M. de Ring ayant trait à l'Administration Provisoire des Finances de la Roumelie Orientale.

La séance est levée à 2 heures et demie.

(Signé) ASSIM.
ABRO.
v. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
KALLAY.
RING.
COUTOULY.
H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.
DONOUGHMORE.
VERNONI.
SCHEPELEW.
TZERETELEW.

Certifié conforme à l'original:
(Signé) A. ROZEF.
A. TSHOFSKY.

No. 600.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 63.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 15, 1878.*

I LEARN from a good authority that Prince Dondoukoff has recently farmed out the dimes of Eastern Roumelia. They were given in the first instance to a M. Maréchal, who, for some reason or other, is a protégé of the Prince, and they were sold by him to a firm named Vagliano Negroponte for, it is said, 16,000*l*. The firm have sent some representatives to Philippopolis with a French lawyer to draw up the contract, and give out that they expect to clear 60,000*l*. by the operation.

I happened to call on Count Ratzfeld, and told him of this incident, pointing out how it necessarily raised questions not only of detail but of principle. Not only did this act of Prince Dondoukoff's make away with a large sum of money, but it was in direct contradiction to the principles laid down in the 8th Protocol of Constantinople, by which the farming out of dimes was solemnly abolished.

His Excellency said he hoped this could not be the case, and acknowledged that if so it was a great prejudice to our labours.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 601.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October 25.*)

(No. 64.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October 15, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of a project for the finances of Eastern Roumelia, which has been submitted to the Commission by the Imperial Ottoman Bank.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 601.

Annexe au Protocole No. 4.

Projet pour l'Organisation des Finances de la Roumélie Orientale présenté aux Délégués de la Commission Européenne, M. Vernoni et Abro Effendi, par la Banque Impériale Ottomane.—Séance du 12 Octobre, 1878.

La Banque Impériale Ottomane sera chargée par la Commission Européenne des fonctions suivantes :—

1. La répartition des impôts ;
2. La perception des revenus ;
3. Le paiement des dépenses ;
4. La tenue des comptes des revenus et des dépenses.

I.—*Répartition des Impôts.*

La Banque nommera, pour chaque caza de la province, un corps de fonctionnaires et d'employés, qui seront chargés de procéder à la répartition des impôts.

Pour chaque caza il y aura un fonctionnaire en chef chargé de l'assiette de l'impôt avec des adjoints dont le nombre variera suivant l'étendu du caza. Des informations ont été demandées à ce sujet.

Sous la direction des fonctionnaires en chef, les adjoints feront des tournées périodiques dans les communes et districts qui leur sont respectivement assignés, et conjointement avec les Moukhtars des communes ou les Conseils des districts, ils prépareront des listes de répartition sur lesquelles le montant de l'impôt dû par chaque contribuable sera enregistré. Des copies de ces listes seront affichées à l'entrée des églises et des mosquées dans les villages ou districts respectifs, pour que chaque contribuable puissé, par comparaison, constater que la taxe qui lui est imposée n'est pas proportionnellement supérieure à celle fixée pour son voisin.

Il sera nommé quatre Inspecteurs qui auront pour mission de visiter les différents districts de la province, après que la répartition aura été complétée, d'entendre les plaintes des contribuables, et d'adresser à l'établissement central les observations qu'ils considèrent fondés à faire.

Les registres de la répartition, dès qu'elle sera terminée, seront soumis à l'approbation de la Commission.

Il aura des registres séparés pour chaque catégorie d'impôt.

II.—*Perception des Revenus.*

Pour la perception des revenus, il y aura un corps de fonctionnaires absolument distinct de ceux chargés de la répartition de l'impôt.

Chaque caza sera divisé en un certain nombre de districts, et des copies des registres de répartition par chaque district seront remises entre les mains du Receveur chargé de la perception du revenu de ce district.

Le Receveur fera des tournées à des époques déterminées, et les Moukhtars des communes et des villages, ou les autres agents chargés de ce service seront tenus de remettre au receveur le montant dû par ces communes ou villages, et ils seront rendus responsables de toute différence. Dans le cas de force majeure, tel que la destruction

complète de la récolte par tempête ou autre cause, le receveur en rendra immédiatement compte à l'établissement central de la Banque.

L'établissement central aura, de temps en temps, à faire connaître à la Commission le montant des arriérés, les raisons qui ont occasionné ces arriérés, et lui demander ses instructions à cet égard.

Les Receveurs auront à certaines époques à payer le montant de leurs recettes à la Banque ou à ses agents, et ces sommes seront immédiatement portées au crédit du compte spécial de la province, tenu à la Banque.

Pour chaque caza, il faudra : employés ; receveurs.

Une liste plus exacte des fonctionnaires et employés qui auraient à être nommés pour la répartition et la perception des impôts sera fournie aussitôt que les informations nécessaires à cet égard auront pu être obtenues.

Les impôts à la perception desquels les propositions qui précèdent se réfèrent comprennent les dîmes, le verghi, les "agnams" (impôt sur les moutons), la taxe sur les porcs et le "bédel" (exemption du service militaire). Il y a d'autres sources de revenu qui sont provisoirement placées sous le contrôle de la Commission Européenne et qui feront ultérieurement retour au Gouvernement Central. Ce sont les revenus qui proviennent des Douanes, des tabacs, des spiritueux, de la poste et des télégraphes.

Il y a aussi d'autres sources de revenus, telles que les salines, les forêts et les "tchifliks," mais l'administration de ces deux catégories de revenus restera, pour le moment entre les mains de l'administration actuelle.

La Banque nommera des Receveurs qui auront à percevoir les recettes provenant de cette catégorie de revenus et à les transmettre à la Banque pour être portées par elle au crédit du compte-courant de la province.

Des Inspecteurs seront nommés avec mission de contrôler la fidèle exécution des réglements établis et de faire des rapports à ce sujet.

La Banque est prête à suggérer de nombreuses améliorations à introduire dans le mode de fixer et de percevoir les impôts ; mais, au commencement et jusqu'à ce qu'on ait acquis plus d'expérience, il sera nécessaire d'adopter le système actuel et de n'introduire des réformes que graduellement.

III.—*Paiement des Dépenses.*

La Commission Européenne remettra à la Banque une copie du budget des dépenses de la province, avec une liste des noms de personnes autorisées à fournir sur la Banque pour faire face aux dépenses pour le service de cette province.

Les personnes ainsi autorisées fourniront des mandats sur la Banque pour les paiements qu'elles auront à faire, et elles seront responsables vis-à-vis de la Commission des dépenses faites.

La Banque paiera ces mandats sur les fonds existants au crédit du compte spécial de la province.

A la fin de chaque mois la Banque fournira à la Commission un compte détaillé, par catégorie des dépenses, des paiements effectués pour ces services, avec les pièces justificatives. Ce compte sera soumis à la stricte vérification d'un fonctionnaire spécialement nommé par la Commission pour cet objet. Avec ce compte, la Banque remettra mensuellement un compte-courant, indiquant le montant des recettes et des paiements effectués durant le mois écoulé et donnant le solde existant au crédit de la province.

IV.—*Comptes des Revenus et des Dépenses.*

La Banque établira un département séparé, qui sera exclusivement chargé de la tenue des comptes de la province, avec un système de livres spécialement adoptés à l'enregistrement des revenus et des dépenses de la province.

Il sera tenu pour chaque nature de revenus des livres dans lesquels les recettes journalières seront inscrites ; de ces livres, ces recettes seront également portées dans les registres de répartition, de manière à montrer clairement les montants qui restent à percevoir.

De pareils livres seront tenus pour l'enregistrement des dépenses faites par les différents services.

C'est au moyen de ces livres de recettes et paiements que sera préparé le compte mensuel qui est à remettre à la Commission, aux termes de l'article précédent.

Le seul compte qui entrera dans la comptabilité générale de la Banque sera le compte-courant de la province.

La Banque sera également chargée de la confection du budget annuel des recettes et dépenses, qui sera soumis à la Commission. Les données recueillies par la Banque, ainsi que les renseignements qui seront donnés par les fonctionnaires exécutifs de la province, fourniront les éléments nécessaires à ce travail.

En acceptant les risques et la responsabilité de diriger ces services, la Banque n'a pas en vue de rechercher de grands profits. Un arrangement juste pour la Banque serait d'être remboursée des dépenses faites pour la direction de ces services, avec une commission de ½ pour cent sur les recettes et de ½ pour cent sur les paiements alloués à titre de dédommagement pour le travail, les risques, et la responsabilité, qui sont les conséquences naturelles de l'accomplissement de transactions de cette importance.

(Signé) M. H. FOSTER.

Le 11 *Octobre*, 1878.

No. 602.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 65.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 15, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 62 of yesterday, I have the honour to inclose copies of the Second Protocol of the Commission for the sitting of the 3rd instant.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 602.

Protocole No. 2.—*Séance du* $\frac{2}{3}$ *Octobre*, 1878 (6 *Cheval* 1295), *au Konak de son Excellence Assim Pacha, à Stamboul.*

Présidence de son Excellence Assim Pacha.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. de Braunschweig.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. de Kallay.

Pour la France—
Le Baron de Ring, et
M. de Contouly.

Pour la Grande-Bretagne—
Sir Henry Drummond Wolff.

Pour l'Italie—
Le Chevalier Vernoni.

Pour la Russie—
Le Colonel Schopelew, et
Le Prince Tzeretelew.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Assim Pacha, et
Abro Efendi.

LA séance est ouverte à 2 heures et demie.

Le Protocole de la séance précédente lu par M. Rozet est adopté.

Abro Efendi présente à la Commission Selim Efendi, que les Commissaires Ottomans ont désigné pour être adjoint à M. Rozet en qualité de Secrétaire.

L'ordre du jour appelle la question des pouvoirs.

Les Commissaires d'Allemagne, d'Autriche-Hongrie, de France, de la Grande Bretagne, d'Italie, et de Russie remettent leurs pouvoirs au bureau.

Une discussion provoquée par le Commissaire de Sa Majesté Britannique s'étant engagée à la suite du dépôt et de l'examen de ces diverses pièces, la Commission, sur la proposition de Sir Henry Drummond Wolff, déclare que les pouvoirs dont ses membres ont été munis en qualité de Commissaires lui paraissent équivalents et que, dans les limites fixées par le Traité de Berlin, elle considère tous les Gouvernements représentés dans son sein comme engagés au même titre par les signatures de leurs Délégués respectifs.

L'ordre du jour appelle la question de savoir si les résolutions de la Commission pourront être prises à la simple majorité des voiants.

Le Commissaire Anglais lit la proposition suivante :—

"1. Toute proposition faite à la Commission sera soumise à un vote, à moins que son auteur ne la retire. Il en sera de même des amendements introduits au cours des débats.

"2. Les décisions seront prises à l'unanimité. La simple majorité suffira toutefois pour les rendre également valables, si la minorité s'y soumet tacitement. La minorité sera censée se soumettre si elle ne fait pas constater ses réserves au Protocole.

"3. La Commission ne reviendra jamais sur une décision prise définitivement dans le sens du paragraphe 2, à moins que l'un des Commissaires ne demande que la question résolue soit remise à l'ordre du jour, en se fondant sur le motif qu'il considère la décision prise comme contraire aux stipulations du Traité de Berlin.

"4. Dans ce cas, une nouvelle discussion sera de droit ; elle ne portera pas sur le fond même de la question, mais seulement sur la conformité ou la non conformité de la décision prise avec le dit Traité de Berlin."

La Commission adopte.

Le Premier Commissaire de Russie donne lecture des considérations suivantes :—

"Messieurs,

"L'ordre du jour vient d'appeler votre attention sur une motion proposée à la fin de la dernière séance par M. le Commissaire de France, et qui a trait à l'Article XIX du Traité de Berlin, en vertu duquel notre Commission est investie du droit d'administrer les finances de la Roumélie Orientale, jusqu'à l'achèvement de l'organisation de cette province.

"Notre honorable collègue de France a fait précéder sa motion d'un discours contenant l'exposé des motifs qui l'ont porté à formuler la proposition susmentionnée.

"Sans vouloir provoquer des débats sur la teneur de ce discours, je tiens à relever dès à présent certains passages qu'il renferme, et dont un surtout me semble donner une interprétation peu conforme à l'esprit du mandat qui nous est assigné par le Traité de Berlin. En constatant que la Commission est chargée d'élaborer un projet de lois organiques pour la province nouvellement créée, M. le Délégué Français a cru devoir ajouter que la Commission est en même temps appelée à contrôler l'administration qui fonctionnera dans la Roumélie Orientale jusqu'au jour où l'organisation prévue par le Traité de Berlin entrera en vigueur. C'est précisément la seconde partie de ce passage qui me paraît être de nature à soulever des malentendus que moi et mon collègue jugeons absolument nécessaire d'écarter dès le début de nos travaux.

"Les Articles du Traité de Berlin qui se rapportent à la constitution et aux attributions de la Commission Européenne de la Roumélie Orientale déterminent d'une façon explicite la tâche de notre assemblée, en ne chargeant cette dernière que de l'établissement d'un statut organique pour cette province, conformément aux principes indiqués par les Puissances signataires du Traité, ainsi que de la gestion provisoire des finances Rouméliotes. Pour notre part, nous n'y trouvons aucune indication directe ou indirecte qui fasse allusion au droit de contrôle de la Commission sur l'administration existant actuellement dans la Roumélie Orientale. Le mandat dont se trouve investie la Commission aux termes du Traité a, d'après notre point de vue, un caractère essentiellement législatif ou organisateur, sauf le droit indéniable qui est déféré à la Commission par l'Article XIX pour la gestion des finances de la province, jusqu'à l'achèvement du nouveau projet d'organisation.

"Ceci étant posé hors de toute controverse, je ne pense pas qu'il soit de la compétence de la Commission d'élargir de son propre chef les limites du mandat qui lui est assigné par le Traité ; et je considère de mon devoir de déclarer de prime abord, en mon nom et en celui de mon collègue, que nous ne pouvons pas nous associer à l'interprétation formulée dans le discours de M. le Commissaire de France, ni reconnaître à la Commission, dont nous avons l'honneur de faire partie, aucun droit

d'ingérence dans les affaires courantes de l'administration actuellement établie en Roumélie Orientale.

"Un autre passage du discours de M. le Commissaire de France, quoique n'ayant pas la portée du précédent, demande néanmoins une petite rectification. En faisant un examen des combinaisons pour l'organisation immédiate d'un service financier en Roumélie sous l'autorité de la Commission, M. le Baron de Ring indique la nécessité de créer un personnel financier où l'élément indigène trouverait la place qui lui est légitimement due. Cette observation pourrait peut-être faire supposer à l'honorable assemblée que l'élément national n'est guère représenté parmi le personnel du régime fonctionnant dans la Roumélie. Or, je tiens à constater que, non-seulement la plupart des postes administratifs dans cette province et toutes les fonctions judiciaires ont été confiés à des indigènes, mais que la répartition et la perception des impôts et contributions, ainsi que l'encaissement du montant des revenus et les paiements dûment ordonnancés s'opèrent par des agents du pays, sous le contrôle des Conseils administratifs des districts, librement élus par la population.

"Passant à la motion qui vient de vous être présentée par M. le Commissaire Français et qui a pour but de déléguer un de nos collègues auprès de la Banque Ottomane, à l'effet d'étudier les conditions auxquelles cet établissement se chargerait éventuellement d'administrer, sous la surveillance de la Commission, les finances de la Roumélie Orientale, je ferais observer que, pour ma part, je suis prêt à adhérer à cette proposition, quoiqu'il me paraisse douteux d'en espérer un résultat pratique pour le but qu'on s'est fixé; car je ne puis m'expliquer comment une institution comme la Banque mentionnée pourrait percevoir les contributions directes et indirectes, ou pour mieux dire, mener à bien une opération qui se pratique ailleurs à l'aide d'agents spéciaux faisant nécessairement partie du personnel administratif du pays.

"Je n'entre pas pour le moment dans de plus amples détails à ce sujet, et je me réserve de me prononcer plus tard, s'il y a lieu, sur l'application pratique du mode de gestion financière qui pourrait être proposé par la Banque Ottomane. Mais comme la motion de notre honorable collègue Français n'a pas d'autre but que de nous procurer des éléments d'information, je suis d'avis, d'une part, qu'on ne devrait pas se borner à les chercher exclusivement auprès de la Banque Ottomane, et de l'autre, qu'il serait non moins utile et pratique d'étudier préalablement les conditions du régime financier actuellement en vigueur dans la Roumélie Orientale.

"Je proposerai en conséquence:

"1. D'ajouter à la motion de M. le Commissaire de France l'expression suivante:

"Il sera d'ailleurs loisible au Délégué de se mettre également en rapport avec d'autres établissements financiers ayant leur siége en Turquie.

"2. De voter l'Article Additionnel suivant:—

"La Commission Européenne délègue un de ses membres pour se mettre en rapport avec les autorités qui administrent les finances de la Roumélie Orientale, afin d'étudier les conditions du régime financier actuel de la province et la possibilité de le concilier avec l'administration provisoire des finances dont est chargée la Commission par l'Article XIX du Traité de Berlin.

"Il reste entendu qu'un arrangement éventuel de cette nature ne préjugerait pas les décisions à prendre par la Commission Européenne, pour l'organisation définitive du régime financier de la nouvelle province."

A ces observations du Colonel Schepelew, *M. le Baron de Ring* croit utile de présenter par écrit la courte réponse dont la teneur suit:

"Tout en maintenant l'opinion que j'ai émise lors de notre première séance sur l'étendue du mandat confié à la Commission Européenne pour la réorganisation de la Roumélie Orientale, je me rencontre cependant avec M. le Premier Commissaire de Russie dans la pensée qu'il serait inopportun d'engager aujourd'hui à ce sujet un débat approfondi. Mais je réserve expressément à la Commission le droit de discuter sa propre compétence, ne fut-ce que pour fournir aux Cabinets des éléments d'appréciation pour le cas où des divergences absolues entre nos manières de voir à l'égard de la dite compétence les obligeraient à interpréter d'une manière authentique certaines stipulations du Traité de Berlin. Autrement dit, je revendique pour nous le droit d'instruire ce genre de procès en laissant aux Cabinets le droit de les juger.

"Quant à la question de surveillance à exercer sur l'administration provisoire de la Roumélie, elle se posera de nouveau quand nous aurons à nous rendre compte des conditions dans lesquelles fonctionne l'administration en vigueur aujourd'hui et les titres qui lui servent de base légale au point de vue des Traités existants."

Le Commissaire de France déclare en outre accepter, si tous ses collègues s'y rallient également, l'amendement du Colonel Schepelew tendant à faire décider que le Délégué de la Commission pourrait s'adresser à tel établissement qu'il voudrait, autre que la Banque Ottomane. Quant à la deuxième motion du Premier Commissaire de Russie, elle pourrait être discutée et résolue à part.

Le Prince Tzeretelew considère comme absolument connexes les deux propositions présentées par son collègue de Russie à la suite de la motion de M. de Ring.

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff, après avoir demandé comme le Baron de Ring que la discussion soit scindée, combat la première proposition:—

"La Banque Impériale Ottomane, dont les actionnaires sont Français et Anglais pour la plupart, est, dit-il, une Banque d'Etat. Le Firman qui a autorisé sa création lui donne des priviléges incontestables. Ses droits s'étendent à tout le territoire de la Turquie; or, la Roumélie Orientale, d'après l'Article XIII du Traité de Berlin, fait partie de l'Empire. L'Article XX du Traité de Berlin parlant de la Roumélie Orientale décide que: 'Les immunités et priviléges acquis aux étrangers, quelle que soit leur condition, seront respectés dans cette province;' je crois, par conséquent, tout-à-fait impossible de donner à un établissement financier quelconque les droits de la Banque Impériale Ottomane."

Le Commissaire d'Italie fait observer que les termes de l'Article XX du Traité de Berlin ne peuvent servir d'argument à Sir Henry Drummond Wolff en faveur du maintien des droits et priviléges octroyés à la Banque Impériale Ottomane. L'Article XX se réfère aux immunités et priviléges acquis aux étrangers en Turquie, mais la Banque Impériale Ottomane, institution purement nationale, régie par les lois de l'Empire, ne saurait être considérée comme un établissement étranger.

Le Baron de Ring: "Sir H. Drummond Wolff's exagère la portée de ma proposition qui visait exclusivement un *modus vivendi* financier provisoire pour la Roumélie Orientale. Dans son esprit, la Banque Impériale Ottomane devrait être consultée tout d'abord; mais je ne vois pas clairement pourquoi, alors qu'il s'agit d'informations à prendre, il serait interdit à notre collègue délégué de compléter ses renseignements où il le jugerait convenable."

M. de Kaltny accepte dans sa teneur première la motion de M. de Ring et voudrait en même temps présenter quelques observations à ses collègues de Russie.

Il ne peut, quant à lui, mais pour des raisons exclusivement pratiques partager l'avis du Colonel Schepelew. La Banque Ottomane, est, on n'en peut douter, la plus importante de l'Orient. Pour éviter une concurrence fâcheuse, il faut commencer par elle, sauf à frapper à d'autres portes si l'on ne parvient pas à s'entendre.

Le Colonel Schepelew fait observer que son amendement a été rédigé dans le seul but d'augmenter les sources d'information.

Le Prince Tzeretelew ajoute que les deux Commissaires de Russie jugent trop exclusive la motion de leur collègue de France, ne reconnaissent aucun droit spécial à la Banque, et tiennent à laisser toute latitude au membre de la Commission chargée de se mettre en rapport avec les établissements financiers.

Le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne rappelle de nouveau les Articles XIII et XX du Traité de Berlin et maintient absolument ses opinions.

Les Commissaires de Russie regrettent de ne pouvoir admettre les arguments de leur collègue Anglais.

Le Baron de Ring pense que l'indépendance de la Commission ne serait plus entière, si elle devait nécessairement s'adresser à la Banque Ottomane. Il ne s'agit encore, on ne saurait trop le répéter, que d'informations tout-à-fait préliminaires et laissant toute entière la question de fond.

M. de Kaltny voudrait que la Commission ne pût entamer de pourparlers avec un établissement autre que la Banque Ottomane, que si l'on ne parvenait pas à se mettre d'accord avec celle-ci.

Le Chevalier Pervoni fait remarquer qu'en dehors de la Banque Ottomane et du Crédit Lyonnais, qui viendrait en seconde ligne, il sera tout-à-fait impossible de trouver à Constantinople ou en Turquie un établissement capable de seconder la Commission pour l'administration des finances de la Roumélie Orientale.

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff repousse l'idée d'entrée en relations avec le Crédit Lyonnais et affirme derechef les droits de la Banque Impériale Ottomane, consacrés par un Firman.

Le Prince Tzeretelew est d'avis qu'on peut s'adresser à la Banque Impériale Ottomane si elle offre les conditions les plus avantageuses et présente les meilleures garanties; mais il estime que la Commission n'est pas tenue de le faire en vertu

d'un droit antérieur et supérieur de la Banque, l'Article XIX du Traité de Berlin donnant à la Commission un pouvoir discrétionnaire en matière de finances.

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff expose que, d'après lui, le fait d'autoriser le Délégué de la Commission à se mettre en rapport avec des établissements financiers autres que la Banque Ottomane constituerait une sorte de mise aux enchères des finances Rouméliotes qui aurait l'inconvénient grave d'infirmer en principe les privilèges de la Banque Impériale et de méconnaître les droits de Sa Majesté le Sultan.

M. de Ring : "Le droit d'administrer les finances de la Roumélie Orientale appartient exclusivement à la Commission Européenne, jusqu'à l'achèvement de l'organisation de la province. Si nous nous adressons à la Banque Ottomane et si nous concluons avec elle un arrangement quelconque, ce que pour ma part je désire vivement, elle administrera les finances, non pas en vertu d'un droit propre, mais en vertu de notre délégation. Par conséquent, je juge inopportun de soulever aujourd'hui la question de savoir si le statut que nous devons élaborer remettra purement et simplement en vigueur, avec les privilèges de la Banque Ottomane, le régime financier qui existait dans la province avant la guerre, ou si nous doterons la Roumélie Orientale d'institutions financières nouvelles. Il me paraît impossible de résoudre d'une manière incidente une question d'une portée aussi grande et c'est pourquoi je prie la Commission de ne pas perdre de vue que l'ordre du jour appelait simplement l'examen d'une motion tendant à nous procurer des renseignements sur les services que nous pourrions attendre de la Banque.

"J'ai accepté tout à l'heure l'amendement de M. le Colonel Schepelew parce que je n'y découvrais rien qui pût créer des inconvénients pratiques, mais puisque M. le Commissaire de Sa Majesté Britannique fait une opposition si vive à cet amendement, je prierai Messieurs nos collègues Russes de l'abandonner."

Le Prince Tzeretelew : "Nous l'aurions fait volontiers, mais comme les déclarations répétées de notre collègue d'Angleterre donnent à notre amendement une portée que nous étions loin de lui attribuer au moment où nous l'avons rédigé, nous nous croyons obligés de le maintenir. Il nous est impossible de nous associer aux déclarations de principe que Sir Henry Drummond Wolff a faites concernant les droits de la Banque Ottomane."

M. le Commissaire d'Italie croit que, par la force même des choses, il faudra s'adresser à la Banque Ottomane, la seule qui soit vraiment organisée pour les services que l'on veut réclamer d'elle.

M. le Commissaire Anglais défend son opinion. Il insiste de nouveau sur les Articles XIII et XX du Traité de Berlin. La Commission doit prendre pour point de départ de son travail d'organisation les diverses lois sur les vilayets et manquerait à son mandat si elle portait atteinte aux droits du Sultan.

Le Prince Tzeretelew déclare que les deux Commissaires de Russie, en présence des affirmations réitérées de leur collègue de la Grande Bretagne, peuvent moins que jamais retirer leur amendement.

Le Président, avec l'assentiment de la Commission, met à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine séance, fixée au Lundi, 7 Octobre :—

1. La continuation de la discussion sur la motion de M. de Ring ayant trait à l'administration provisoire des finances de la Roumélie Orientale, et sur l'amendement du Colonel Schepelew.

2. La motion du Premier Commissaire de Russie tendant à charger un membre de la Commission d'étudier le régime financier actuel de la nouvelle province.

La séance est levée à 4 heures et demie.

(Signé) ASSIM.
ABRO.
v. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
KALLAY.
RING.
COUTOULY.
H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.
VERNONI.
SCHEPELEW.
TZERETELEW.

Certifié conforme à l'original :
(Signé) A. ROZET.
A. TSHOLSKY.
SÉLIM.

No. 603.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 66.)
My Lord,

Therapia, October 16, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 50 on the subject of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, I would beg leave to call your Lordship's attention to the Règlement at page 17 of the Statutes of that institution, of which I assume a copy exists at the Foreign Office, containing a Règlement of the Ottoman Government, signed in February 1875, "déterminant les rapports de la Banque Impériale Ottomane avec le Ministère des Finances, les vilayets, et les autres départements administratifs de l'Etat pour l'encaissement des revenus et le paiement des dépenses de l'Empire."

This Règlement, which is approved by a Firman, clearly has the force of a law, and cannot be overlooked by a Commission charged to take as its point of departure "les différentes lois sur les vilayets."

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 604.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 67.)
My Lord,

Pera, October 17, 1878.

I BEG to inclose a copy of a proposal respecting the administration of the finances of Eastern Roumelia, unanimously adopted at the sitting of the Commission to-day.

I think it will answer the practical purposes of a transitory administration.

The sub-Committee, chosen by ballot, were M. Coutouly, Abro Effendi, and Lord Donoughmore.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 604.

Projet de Résolution présenté par MM. de Kallay et de Ring.

LA Commission Européenne de la Roumélie Orientale prenant en main à partir d'aujourd'hui la gestion provisoire des finances, qui lui est dévolue en vertu de l'Article XIX du Traité de Berlin, définit comme suit les droits et les devoirs qui découlent pour elle du dit Article.

1. La Commission arrête le budget de la province. Elle répartit et l'impôt et le perçoit, conformément aux lois et règlements en vigueur par l'organe des agents actuellement en fonctions, ou par des agents spéciaux de son choix, là où elle le juge nécessaire.

2. Elle opère par ses agents les paiements imposés à la Roumélie Orientale par l'Article XXII du Traité de Berlin et tous autres paiements qu'elle reconnaît être à la charge de la province.

3. Elle règle les émoluments de tous les employés civils, ainsi que ceux des officiers, sous-officiers, et soldats de la milice et de la gendarmerie. Nul employé civil ou militaire créé par l'administration ne sera attribué à la charge de la province qu'avec le consentement de la Commission.

4. Elle nomme à la majorité absolue des voix et au scrutin secret un Directeur-Général des Finances qui sera le chef de tous les services financiers de la province.

5. Elle choisit dans son sein par le même procédé un Comité des Finances composé de trois membres, auquel elle délègue le droit de pourvoir à tous les emplois de finances, autres que celui de Directeur-Général.

6. Ce Comité prend ses décisions à la majorité. Il prend connaissance de tous les actes de l'administration financière, laquelle reste placée tous sa surveillance et sous son contrôle.

7. Les employés des finances actuellement en fonctions conserveront leurs emplois, si le Comité les confirme, sur la proposition du Directeur-Général.

8. Le Comité révoque et suspend les employés des finances. Il provoque les poursuites criminelles ou correctionnelles qu'il y aura lieu de diriger contre eux à raison de malversations et d'autres crimes ou délits qu'ils commettraient dans l'exercice ou à l'occasion de leurs fonctions. Les autorités judiciaires ne pourront pas procéder d'office contre eux du fait de crimes ou de délits de cette nature. Les employés des finances seront poursuivis et jugés comme les autres citoyens, pour les crimes et les délits n'ayant pas rapport à leurs fonctions.

9. Les administrations civils et militaires doivent aux employés des finances aide et protection. Sur toute réquisition de leur part, à la condition que cette réquisition soit faite dans les formes et conditions prévues par les règlements, les autorités civiles et militaires leur prêteront main-forte, sans examiner la légitimité du motif invoqué par eux à l'appui de leur réquisition. Si l'administration estime après coup que cette réquisition était abusive, elle dénoncera le fait au Directeur-Général qui devra en faire l'objet d'un rapport au Comité.

Les règlements visés plus haut seront élaborés par la Commission le plus promptement que faire se pourra.

No. 605.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October 25.*)

(No. 68. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Pera, October* 17, 1878.

THE idea of electing the Sub-Committee of Finance by ballot emanated from the Russians, who, on this condition alone, allowed the decision to be taken by a majority.

I found some engagements to support this proposal had been taken behind my back by the Austrian and French Commissioners, who were the authors of the scheme and very desirous that it should be discussed *à l'urgence* and passed.

I told them privately that I should not support this view, nor urge the Turks to do so, except I was certain of the Committee to be elected, viz., Abro Effendi, M. Coutouly, and Lord Donoughmore.

On their giving their words to this effect, the project was passed unanimously, and the Committee was elected on the terms proposed. Lord Donoughmore received only the four votes promised to him, viz., France, Austria, Turkey, and Great Britain.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 606.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October 25.*)

(No. 69.)

My Lord, *Pera, October* 18, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the office copy of the Third Protocol, together with other copies of the same document.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 606.

Protocole No. 3.—Séance du 25 Septembre / 7 Octobre, 1878 (10 *Chewal* 1295), *à Cantidja.*

Présidence de son Excellence Assim Pacha.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. de Braunschweig.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. de Kallay.

Pour la France—
Le Baron de Ring, et
M. de Coutouly.

Pour la Grande-Bretagne—
Sir Henry Drummond Wolff, et
Le Comte de Donoughmore.

Pour l'Italie—
Le Chevalier Vernoni.

Pour la Russie—
Le Colonel Schepelew, et
Le Prince Tzeretelew.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Assim Pacha, et
Abro Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à midi et demie.

Le Protocole de la séance précédente, lu par M. Rozet, est adopté.

Sur la proposition de *M. de Coutouly*, la Commission décide que tous les projets rédigés et présentés par ses membres seront, si leur auteur en fait la demande, imprimés par les soins du bureau. Ils devront être tirés à un nombre d'exemplaires suffisant pour que les Commissaires puissent les étudier avant les débats et au besoin en donner connaissance à leurs Gouvernements.

Abro Effendi donne lecture de la déclaration suivante :—

"Vous vous souvenez, Messieurs, que, dans la première séance, le Prince Tzeretelew a émis l'opinion que l'accord entre la Sublime Porte et les Représentants des Puissances, prévu par l'Article XVIII du Traité de Berlin, se manifeste par la présence des Délégués Ottomans au sein de notre Commission et que, par conséquent, le vote de ces Délégués engage le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, dans la même mesure que celui des autres Commissaires lie leurs Gouvernements respectifs.

"Je m'étais réservé de faire connaître ma pensée sur cette doctrine ; permettez-moi de vous l'exposer :

"D'après l'Article XVIII du Traité de Berlin, l'organisation administrative de la Roumélie Orientale doit être élaborée d'accord avec la Sublime Porte.

"Comme le Gouvernement Impérial est représenté dans la Commission par ses Délégués, l'accord s'établira au sein de la Commission elle-même.

"En conséquence, l'accord sera considéré comme établi avec la Sublime Porte sur toutes les dispositions qui auront été adoptées par la Commission, avec l'assentiment des Délégués Ottomans."

Le Baron de Ring fait observer à l'Assemblée que cette question a été déjà vidée par la Commission lorsqu'elle a proclamé que les pouvoirs de ses membres étaient équivalents.

M. de Kallay s'exprime dans le même sens.

Sur sa proposition, la Commission, prenant acte de la déclaration du Deuxième Commissaire de Turquie, constate que l'incident est clos et passe à l'ordre du jour qui appelle la continuation du débat sur la motion de M. de Ring, ayant trait à l'administration provisoire des finances de la Roumélie Orientale.

M. Vernoni lit le discours suivant :—

"Dans le débat qui a surgi pendant la dernière séance au sujet de l'amendement présenté par notre honorable collègue le Colonel Schepelew à la proposition de M. le Baron du Ring un grand nombre de considérations ont été émises qui n'avaient pas directement trait à l'objet même visé par notre honorable collègue Français.

"Ce n'est pas mon intention de les relever ni de les discuter à nouveau; je me bornerai uniquement à soumettre à l'examen de la Commission les considérations suivantes pour lesquelles je me suis placé au point de vue pratique de la question.

"Tout d'abord, Messieurs, il est nécessaire de reconnaître que toutes les mesures à prendre pour l'administration provisoire des finances de la Roumélie Orientale qui reste placée sous l'autorité politique et militaire de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan doivent être prises d'accord avec la Sublime Porte ou avec ses chargés de pouvoirs, MM. les Commissaires Ottomans.

"M. le Baron du Ring, dans le mémoire qu'il a présenté à notre première séance, a émis l'idée que nous devions nous adresser à la Banque Impériale Ottomane, afin de connaître à quelles conditions cet établissement voudrait nous prêter son concours pour coopérer avec nous à l'administration provisoire des finances de la Roumélie Orientale. A cette motion déposée à la fin de notre première séance M. le premier Commissaire de Russie a présenté un amendement d'après lequel notre Délégué ne devrait pas s'adresser d'une manière exclusive à la dite Banque, mais resterait libre de se mettre en rapport avec d'autres établissements financiers ayant leur siége en Turquie.

"Abstraction faite des considérations émises par notre honorable collègue d'Angleterre, l'amendement de M. le Colonel Schepelew serait acceptable, s'il se trouvait à Constantinople d'autres Banques pouvant nous offrir les mêmes avantages et les facilités d'opération qui nous sont nécessaires pour l'accomplissement de notre tâche.

"Mais comme il n'en existe pas, la Commission doit nécessairement s'adresser à la Banque Impériale Ottomane, laquelle d'ailleurs, en dehors des qualités de garantie voulues, de sa position financière, et de son crédit parfaitement assis, est organisée de façon à pouvoir nous prêter les services pratiques pour lesquels nous réclamerions son concours.

"Quand bien même on ne tiendrait pas compte des engagements de la Sublime Porte, vis-à-vis de la dite Banque, engagements dont nous devons forcément tenir compte, puisque l'accord de la Sublime Porte nous est nécessaire pour toute mesure à prendre en vue de l'administration provisoire des finances, il serait impossible de ne pas reconnaître que cet établissement financier est seul en état de nous servir.

"La position de crédit dont jouit la Banque Impériale Ottomane ne peut soulever aucune objection de notre part; il est évident qu'il serait avantageux pour nous d'avoir à notre disposition cette Banque laquelle est parfaitement au courant des rouages financiers du pays, dispose déjà d'un personnel apte à ce genre d'opérations, et possède en un mot toutes les qualités pratiques indespensables au maniement d'une trésorerie publique.

"En conséquence je me permets de vous proposer d'ajouter à la proposition de M. le Baron de Ring le paragraphe suivant:—

Amendement.

"Le Commissaire délégué pourra recourir, s'il le juge nécessaire, aux lumières des directeurs d'autres établissements financiers de la capitale, pour s'éclairer sur les mesures que la Commission doit prendre."

"J'engage mes honorables collègues à considérer que la question qui nous occupe est d'une urgence absolue; elle devrait être votée au plus tôt pour qu'il nous restât le temps matériellement nécessaire de nous occuper des détails des combinaisons qui seraient à adopter."

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff demande aux Délégués Ottomans s'ils ont des objections à faire contre les conclusions de M. Vernoni. D'après lui, en acceptant la proposition de M. le Commissaire d'Italie, la Commission réservera implicitement les droits de Sa Majesté le Sultan dans la Roumélie Orientale, partie intégrante de l'Empire, ainsi que les droits des individus, des banques et des autres institutions auxquels le Sultan a accordé des priviléges, en les plaçant sous la sauvegarde de son autorité politique et militaire.

Cette observation n'ayant donné lieu à aucun débat, le *Commissaire Anglais* propose à l'amendement de M. Vernoni un sous-amendement, d'après lequel la Commission, au lieu d'un Délégué, en nommerait deux.

Abro Effendi pense que, si l'on se décide pour deux Délégués, l'un de ceux-ci devrait être Ottoman. En procédant de la sorte, la Commission indiquerait clairement sa volonté de se conformer à l'esprit de l'Article XIX du Traité de Berlin.

Le Président met aux voix la motion du Baron de Ring, avec les modifications proposées par les Commissaires d'Italie et d'Angleterre.

La Commission adopte à l'unanimité.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff désigne au choix de ses collègues M. Vernoni et Abro Effendi, en qualité de Délégués.

Les Commissaires de Russie déclarent ne voir aucun inconvénient à cette combinaison: "Mais il doit être bien entendu, ajoutent-ils, que le Délégué Ottoman sera considéré uniquement comme le mandataire de la Commission."

M. Vernoni et Abro Effendi sont nommés Délégués. La Commission les invite à se mettre aussi promptement que possible en relations avec la Banque Ottomane et à rendre compte des résultats de leur mission dans un Rapport qui sera imprimé et distribué.

L'ordre du jour appelle la motion du Premier Commissaire de Russie tendant à charger un membre de la Commission d'étudier le régime financier actuel de la nouvelle province:

M. de Kallay:

"La motion fait par M. le Colonel Schepelew à notre dernière séance renferme deux parties bien distinctes:

La première partie ainsi conçue: "(La Commission Européenne délègue un de ses membres pour se mettre en rapport avec les autorités qui administrent les finances de la Roumélie Orientale, afin d'étudier les conditions du régime financier actuel de la province") tend, par la nomination d'un Délégué chargé d'étudier l'administration financière actuelle de la Roumélie, à nous procurer les renseignements dont nous pourrions avoir besoin. Les Commissaires Russes nous ayant promis toutes les informations désirables, la délégation qu'on nous propose de créer n'aurait pas un but suffisamment défini. De plus, la Russie étant représentée au sein de la Commission, nous n'avons pas, je crois, de services à demander aux Autorités Russes.

"Quant à la seconde partie ("et la possibilité de concilier ce régime avec l'administration provisoire des finances, dont est chargée la Commission par l'Article XIX du Traité de Berlin,") je crains qu'elle ne lie les mains de la Commission, en lui imposant pour l'avenir un programme limité.

"Je propose donc la motion suivante:

Motion.

"Considérant que la première partie de la proposition du Colonel Schepelew se trouve comprise dans la promesse de MM. les Commissaires de Russie, spontanément faite dans la séance du 30 Septembre, 1878, de fournir à la Commission toutes les informations nécessaires sur l'administration actuellement existante en Roumélie;

"Et considérant en outre que la deuxième partie pourrait être interprétée comme donnant une direction prématurée aux travaux de la Commission;

"Le Commissaire du Gouvernement Austro-Hongrois propose l'ajournement de cette motion, si toutefois MM. les Commissaires de Russie veulent bien la renouveler à une séance ultérieure."

Le Colonel Schepelew déclare qu'en faisant sa proposition, il ne voulait en rien préjuger l'avenir, ni engager la Commission.

Son seul désir était d'élargir le cercle des informations et d'augmenter les sources de renseignements. Si la Commission en juge autrement, il ne voit, pour sa part, aucun inconvénient à se ranger à l'avis de ses collègues.

Le Prince Tzerclelew partage l'opinion du Colonel Schepelew et rappelle que les Délégués de Russie se sont engagés à mettre à la disposition de la Commission des traductions de règlements, mais non un travail spécial sur les finances de la Roumélie Orientale.

Le Baron de Ring se plaît à constater qu'une pensée de confiance a dicté la motion de M. de Kallay. "Le Délégué d'Autriche-Hongrie, dit-il, croit ses collègues de Russie mieux placés que personne pour éclairer la Commission, et il lui semble inutile de nommer un Commissaire spécial pour s'informer de l'état actuel de l'administration financière en Roumélie."

M. de Braunschweig prie les Commissaires de Russie de ne pas maintenir leur proposition qu'ils pourraient reprendre à une séance ultérieure.

Les Délégués de Russie n'insistent pas, et, le Colonel Schepelew ayant retiré sa proposition, acceptent la motion de M. de Kallay.

La Commission, à l'unanimité, adopte la motion du Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie.

Le Commissaire de Sa Majesté Britannique demande à faire quelques observations sur les paroles prononcées par le Premier Commissaire de Russie.

"Je me rallie, dit-il, jusqu'à un certain point, aux observations que le Colonel Schepelew a faites en réponse à celles de M. le Commissaire de France. Dans le Traité de Berlin il n'y a pas, comme dit le Colonel Schepelew, une indication directe qui fasse allusion au droit de la Commission sur l'administration existant actuellement dans la Roumélie Orientale.

"Mais en lisant les Articles du Traité, selon l'interprétation qui lui donnent les Protocoles, on ne saurait nier à la Commission un certain droit d'ingérence. L'administration des finances lui est confiée 'd'accord avec la Sublime Porte.' Or, le mot 'administration' n'implique pas seulement la perception des contributions mais aussi le réglement des traitements, ainsi que les frais généraux de la province. L'administration des finances a pleinement le droit d'examiner si les débours que l'administration demande sont fondés sur les vraies nécessités du pays selon les principes de l'économie politique. Les Protocoles ne laissent à ce sujet aucun doute. Dans le Protocole No. 6, séance du 25 Juin, 1878, le Comte Schouvaloff s'exprime dans les termes suivants:—

"'Dans la Roumélie Orientale, la Russie n'a pas œuvre isolée à faire: l'Europe s'est substituée à elle et peut y agir comme il lui semble opportun.'

"Et comment l'Europe s'est-elle substituée à la Russie, sinon par le moyen de la Commission qu'elle vient de nommer?

"Mais les paroles de M. le Colonel Schepelew ouvrent des considérations d'une portée beaucoup plus large. Il fait mention de 'l'administration actuellement établie en Roumélie Orientale.'

"Je dois dire qu'à mon avis cette administration prévue par le Traité de Berlin, ni basée sur les stipulations de cet acte Européen.

"Examinons les Articles du Traité.

"L'Article XIII dit:

"'Il est formé au sud des Balkans, &c. . . . .'

"Je dois appeler l'attention de la Commission sur la circonstance que cet Article est rédigé au temps présent, et que la province, au moins depuis l'échange des ratifications, est une province de l'Empire Ottoman, restant placée sous l'autonomie politique et militaire directe du Sultan dans des conditions d'autonomie administrative.

"Elle aura un Gouverneur-Général Chrétien.

"Ce Gouverneur-Général ne dépend pas pour ses pouvoirs de nos décisions. C'est la limitation de ces pouvoirs qui dépend de nous. Mais il a une existence indépendante, selon le Traité et, si nous ne tombons pas d'accord sur la définition de ses pouvoirs, il aura ceux qui appartiennent à un Gouverneur-Général, quels qu'ils soient.

"Pour mieux développer ma pensée j'ose attirer l'attention de la Commission sur l'Article XV.

"'L'ordre intérieur est maintenu dans la Roumélie Orientale par une gendarmerie indigène, assistée d'une milice locale. Pour la composition de ces deux corps, dont les officiers sont nommés par le Sultan, &c.'

"Vous voyez là une fois encore le temps présent.

"Mais passons à l'Article XVIII.

"'Immédiatement après l'échange des ratifications du présent Traité une Commission Européenne sera formée pour élaborer, d'accord avec la Porte Ottomane, &c.'

"Ainsi dans l'ordre chronologique des Articles nous trouvons que d'abord la province est établie, et que la gendarmerie et la milice, dont le Gouverneur-Général est la tête, sont nommées au temps présent, mais que subséquemment les travaux à exécuter par la Commission sont désignés par le temps futur.

"Mais l'Article XIX ne laisse à ce sujet aucun doute.

"'La Commission Européenne sera chargée d'administrer, d'accord avec la Sublime Porte, les finances de la province jusqu'à l'achèvement de la nouvelle organisation.'

"Ce droit est pleinement reconnu par MM. les Commissaires de Russie.

"La Sublime Porte doit donc selon le Traité se trouver dans la Roumélie jusqu'à l'achèvement de la nouvelle organisation.

"Mais si la Sublime Porte se trouve dans une province de l'Empire elle ne peut s'y trouver que comme souveraine.

"Comme mon Gouvernement est pleinement résolu à insister sur l'exécution exacte du Traité de Berlin, et à compléter ainsi l'œuvre de conciliation et de paix, et que j'ai lieu de croire que la Grande Bretagne n'est pas isolée dans cette intention, je suis d'avis que la Sublime Porte devrait obtempérer aux stipulations de ce Traité en nommant immédiatement son Gouverneur-Général ainsi que les officiers de la milice et de la gendarmerie, afin que ces deux corps soient formés pendant les séances de la Commission, et que la Commission puisse prendre connaissance des sommes qui doivent être affectées à leur entretien.

"Il est vrai que la tâche confiée à la Commission est de former un état de choses permanent dans lequel l'autorité du Sultan doit être consolidée tout en donnant aux populations des garanties de bon gouvernement, basées sur le système de la représentation populaire.

"Mais pour arriver à ce but la Commission a non-seulement le droit, mais aussi le devoir d'assurer que le système qui existe, et le fonctionnement de l'administration actuelle ne sont pas nuisibles à l'objet de sa mission. Le chiffre de l'armée d'occupation est fixé par le Traité.

"La Commission doit examiner si les cadres de cette armée excèdent les proportions auxquelles les finances de la province doivent subvenir.

"En admettant que le Traité ne dise pas d'une façon directe que la Commission peut prendre connaissance de l'administration actuelle et la surveiller, ce droit découle de la nature même de son mandat. En même temps il est évident que le Traité ne donne aucun droit d'administration aux autorités de la Russie.

"L'Article XX reconnaît à cette Puissance le droit d'occupation. Mais selon les précédents des occupations militaires, l'occupation n'implique pas l'administration civile. Quand même cela serait autrement, le Traité de Berlin a tranché la question en comprenant dans le même Article le droit d'occupation de la Roumélie Orientale, et celui de la Roumanie, où on ne pourra jamais prétendre que l'autorité du pays saurait être mise de côté."

Le Colonel Schepelew voudrait éviter toute discussion au sujet des interprétations données au Traité de Berlin par son collègue d'Angleterre. Il croit, de plus, que le discours de Sir H. Drummond Wolff n'a pour l'instant aucune portée pratique. Les autorités Russes établies actuellement dans la Roumélie Orientale s'y trouvent en vertu d'un Traité conclu avec la Sublime Porte et la Russie, qui seules ont qualité pour discuter entre elles cet arrangement et les difficultés qu'il peut soulever.

Le Baron de Ring voudrait savoir si son collègue de Russie fait allusion à l'Article XXVI du Traité de San Stéfano.

M. Schepelew se réserve de répondre à cette interruption et poursuit son discours: "La Réunion n'a, dit-il, aucun droit de toucher un débat qui est hors de sa compétence. Si la Porte désire faire entrer son administration en Roumélie Orientale, elle aura à s'entendre avec le Gouvernement Impérial de Russie seul."

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff déclare qu'il ne peut reconnaître d'autre Traité que celui de Berlin. Il tient du reste à constater que la Commission étant chargée, d'accord avec la Sublime Porte, de la gestion des finances, a les droits qu'il lui a reconnus dans sa déclaration. Elle ne peut méconnaître ni les précédents, ni le Traité de Berlin.

Le Deuxième Commissaire de Russie pense que les déclarations de principe entravent l'œuvre d'organisation:

"Nous nous réservons, dit-il, de répondre à cette discussion en un moment opportun.

"La Commission devrait aujourd'hui ne s'occuper que de l'élaboration des futurs règlements: nous les accepterons peut-être pour des raisons entièrement opposées à celle de notre collègue d'Angleterre; mais, une fois pour toutes, nous désirons éviter les discussions de principe lorsque nous jugeons l'assemblée entièrement incompétente."

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff se considère comme ayant été pleinement autorisé à faire sa déclaration de principe à l'exemple du Baron de Ring et du Colonel Schepelew, qui tous deux ont donné lecture de documents du même genre que le sien. Il persiste à croire, malgré l'avis de ses collègues de Russie, qu'il peut soulever une question de fond, s'il le juge utile aux travaux de la réunion.

M. de Braunschweig espère que l'incident est clos.

Abro Effendi, parlant au nom des Commissaires Ottomans, répond à la déclaration de M. le Colonel Schepelew relative au Traité de San Stéfano :—

"Nous soutenons, dit-il, que le Traité de Berlin s'est substitué à celui de San Stéfano qui ne concerne en rien la nouvelle province. La Roumélie Orientale a été créée par le Traité de Berlin et son organisation a été confiée à la Commission qui n'aurait aucun mandat si le Traité de San Stéfano avait été maintenu.

"Il nous paraît donc impossible de laisser passer sans observation la déclaration de MM. les Commissaires de Russie. Nous nous réservons au reste de prendre l'avis de la Sublime Porte, mais nous nous refusons dès à présent à admettre que, en vertu du Traité de San Stéfano, l'administration civile de la Roumélie Orientale appartienne indéfiniment à la Russie."

Le Colonel Schepelew fait remarquer qu'il n'a point mentionné l'Article XXVI du Traité de San Stéfano.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff se réserve de soumettre à son Gouvernement la déclaration faite par les Délégués Russes que l'administration de la Roumélie Orientale aurait été réglée par le Traité de San Stéfano.

Le Colonel Schepelew explique sa pensée. Ce n'est pas à la Commission, mais aux deux Gouvernements de Turquie et de Russie qu'appartient le droit de traiter cette question.

Le Prince Tzeretelew fait la déclaration suivante :—

"Je maintiens que la Commission n'a pas mandat de s'occuper des droits du Gouvernement Ottoman et je dois affirmer de nouveau que nous considérons cette question comme étrangère à notre compétence."

Le Commissaire de France croit que la Commission a besoin de savoir qui administre actuellement la province et qui a le droit de l'administrer. En cherchant à s'éclairer par la discussion sur ce point important et d'une très-grande portée pratique pour la suite de leurs travaux, les Délégués n'outrepassent certainement pas leur mandat.

Le Prince Tzeretelew répond que, pour savoir qui administre actuellement la province, les Commissaires n'ont qu'à s'adresser à leurs collègues Ottomans, mais que, si l'on doit rechercher qui a le droit de l'administrer, il se déclare incompétent.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff demande à ses collègues de Russie s'ils persistent à soutenir que le Traité de San Stéfano a donné naissance à l'administration actuelle de la Roumélie Orientale.

Les deux Commissaires de Russie maintiennent le point de vue auquel ils se sont placés. Le Traité de Berlin n'ayant pas fait mention du régime administratif de la Roumélie on ne peut pas songer à discuter la question de savoir en vertu de quel droit la province est administrée; ce débat ne peut avoir lieu qu'entre la Sublime Porte et la Russie.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff demande aux Commissaires Ottomans si la Sublime Porte a l'intention de nommer prochainement un Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale, ainsi que les officiers de la milice et de la gendarmerie.

Le Prince Tzeretelew est d'avis que la question posée par son collègue d'Angleterre sort de la compétence de la Commission.

Son Excellence Assim Pacha et *Abro Effendi*, déclarent que le Gouvernement Ottoman a l'intention de nommer prochainement un Gouverneur-Général pour prendre en main l'administration de la province. Il va nommer aussi les officiers de la milice indigène et de la gendarmerie.

Le Prince Tzeretelew remercie les Commissaires de Turquie de cette information et fait ses réserves :—

"Cette question, dit-il, ne lient en rien aux devoirs de la Commission dont l'œuvre administrative doit rester purement théorique. Du reste, la nomination du Gouverneur-Général ne serait valide qu'avec l'assentiment des Six Grandes Puissances."

Le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie se réserve de se prononcer ultérieurement sur les limites de la compétence de la Commission et sur la déclaration verbale du Colonel Schepelew.

M. de Braunschweig abonde dans le même sens et considère comme dangereux

d'aborder les questions de principe. La Commission ne doit pas abandonner le terrain pratique, le seul sur lequel on puisse arriver à des accommodements.

L'ordre du jour étant épuisé, le *Prince Tzeretelew* dépose sur le bureau la proposition suivante :—

"La Commission, ayant à se prononcer sur les différents règlements visés par l'Article XXIII du Traité de Berlin, juge utile de réunir d'avance les matériaux nécessaires pour pouvoir donner son avis. Elle prie les Commissaires Ottomans de vouloir bien lui communiquer des informations propres à la renseigner sur cette partie de sa tâche."

Le Président, avec l'assentiment de la Commission, met à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine séance fixée au Samedi 12 Octobre :—

1. La discussion sur la motion du Deuxième Commissaire de Russie, tendant à prier les Commissaires Ottomans de vouloir bien communiquer à la Commission des informations propres à la renseigner sur la partie de sa tâche visée par l'Article XXIII du Traité de Berlin;
2. La question du départ pour Philippopoli;
3. La lecture du Rapport que présenteront M. Vernoni et Abro Effendi sur les résultats de leurs négociations avec la Banque Ottomane.

La séance est levée à 4 heures et demie.

(Signé) ASSIM.
ABRO.
v. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
KALLAY.
RING.
COUTOULY.
H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.
DONOUGHMORE.
VERNONI.
SCHEPELEW.
TZERETELEW.

Certifié conforme à l'original :
(Signé) A. Rozen.
A. Tsholsky.
Séjan.

No. 607.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 195. Political.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, October 16, 1878.*

THE Roumanian Chambers will no doubt be prorogued in a few days, and their principal work has consisted during the present Session in passing resolutions accepting the decisions of the Treaty of Berlin, as reported by me to your Lordship on the 13th instant.

I see no prospect of any legislative measure for modifying the present religious disabilities passing this year.

The Government consider that they have done enough for the present in getting the Chambers to adopt unconditionally the obligations imposed upon their country by the Powers assembled in Congress.

No time was found to submit to the Chambers any law having reference to Jewish civil rights, which it was at one time intended to pass as an instalment. It is possible that a better opportunity to effect this may be found in the approaching ordinary Session, but it may also happen that the Ministers may shrink from introducing the question in this way in parts, so as to avoid creating prematurely excitement on the subject, and especially at a time when a general election will be near at hand.

The next ordinary Session commences at the end of November (new style) and will probably last several months, and be followed by a dissolution, as only Chambers

elected *ad hoc* for the purpose can legally remove religious disqualifications which it is intended to accomplish in the way prescribed by the Constitution.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 608.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 196. Political.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, October* 17, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the accompanying French translation of the Prince's message by which the Extraordinary Session of the Roumanian Chambers has terminated, and the Legislative Assemblies have been prorogued.

The ordinary Session will probably commence the $\frac{3}{15}$th November next.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 608.

Message.

HIER, Mercredi, M le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères a donné lecture au Sénat et M. le Ministre de l'Instruction Publique à la Chambre des Députés, du Message Princier prononçant la clôture de la Session Extraordinaire de 1878.

Ce document est ainsi conçu :—

"Messieurs les Sénateurs,
"Messieurs les Députés,

"Nous vous avons appelés en Session Extraordinaire pour que vous vous prononciez sur la situation faite à la Roumanie par les Grandes Puissances Européennes réunies en Congrès.

"Prenant en considération l'état dans lequel se trouve l'Orient en général et notre pays en particulier, vous vous êtes inclinés devant la volonté collective de l'Europe.

"Ainsi, la position de la Roumanie devant les Grandes Puissances est réglée; ainsi la Roumanie entre dans la famille des Etats independants.

"L'Europe, j'en ai la ferme conviction, nous tiendra compte des sacrifices que nous avons faits dans l'intérêt de la paix générale, et la nation vous sera reconnaissante du patriotisme éclairé et de la prudence politique dont vous avez fait preuve pour préserver la Roumanie de nouvelles complications.

"Toujours préoccupé des intérêts du pays, je vous ai manifesté, en vous convoquant, toute ma confiance et je vous ai dit que vos décisions seraient aussi les miennes.

"Je vous remercie, Messieurs, des décisions que vous avez prises, et que mon Gouvernement va faire exécuter avec une entière loyauté, tant à l'extérieur qu'à l'intérieur.

"Au revoir à bientôt, Messieurs, et que Dieu vous ait en sa sainte garde.

"La Session Extraordinaire est close.

(Signé) CHARLES.

(Suivent les signatures des Ministres.)

No. 609.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 197. Political.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, October* 18, 1878.

IT appears to me that your Lordship ought to be informed that the Roumanian Government are buying war material and doing everything in their power, and at considerable expense, to re-establish thoroughly their military strength.

Sixty thousand Peabody rifles have been purchased, and a large amount of cartridges from Germany are arriving; the greatest attention is being paid to the efficiency of the different forces, and it is hoped to bring all these into good order by next spring.

It is evident that Prince Charles still entertains the belief that the peace in the East is not one to be entirely depended upon, and that he thinks that should new complications arise he will be able to profit by them, only in so far as he will command a respectable military force.

I have, &c.
Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 610.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 198. Political.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, October* 18, 1878.

I HAD the honour to report to your Lordship by the telegraph, on the 16th instant, the surrender of the Bessarabian districts to Russia as imminent.

My expectations have been fully realized, and I believe that the Russian authorities, civil, military, and judicial, are at this moment in full possession of those districts. Very little is, however, said on the subject at Bucharest, as the subject is highly displeasing to all parties here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 611.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 199. Political.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, October* 10, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that every preparation is being made here with a view to occupy the Dobroudja, the Prefects for the new districts have been selected, and some of the troops destined for the purpose of garrisoning that territory will be passed in review by His Royal Highness the Prince to-morrow.

Having been informed by Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople that the European Commission charged with the delimitation of Bulgaria will probably begin by the Silistria-Mangalia line, I communicated the intelligence to this Government, and considerable satisfaction was expressed at the prospect of having the boundary definitely settled.

Acting on the instructions received by telegraph from Sir Henry Layard, I recommended to the Roumanian Ministers to have officers and qualified men ready with requisite instruments to act under the orders of the Commission, and make a survey of the line which is to be handed to them, and they have expressed themselves disposed to have both officers and men in readiness whenever the Commission should call for them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

P.S.—I have reason to believe that this Government have addressed notes to Russia and also to the President of the Congress, asking to be put in possession of the Dobroudja.

W. A. W.

No. 612.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 200. Political.)

Bucharest, October 19, 1878.

My Lord,

IN a former despatch I had the honour to submit to your Lordship a few remarks with reference to the Jewish question.

The Extraordinary Session of the Chambers lasted only a few days, and this being the season of the year when the Roumanians are busy with their vineyards, the Government found out that any attempt to detain the Deputies or Senators at Bucharest would be attended with considerable unpopularity.

The Government are so well satisfied with the vote passed by both Chambers, accepting the decisions of the Congress in general terms, that they were unwilling to prolong the debates.

That vote is considered by all parties here as finally and irrevocably committing the country to a solution of the religious question in a sense favourable to perfect equality.

The fact that a large proportion of the inhabitants of the newly acquired territory are Mahommedans renders a complete solution on this subject still more indispensable, and it is not likely to be delayed beyond next spring.

I am assured that the Prince is personally extremely favourable to an early and practical solution of this question, but no one appears to see his way to a legal settlement of religious inequality till the Special Chambers of Constitutional Revision have been elected, though all agree that this must be effected.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 613.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 201. Political.)

Bucharest, October 19, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the Chevalier Zwiedinek von Südenhorst, hitherto Austro-Hungarian Agent and Consul-General in Roumania, has taken his departure from here, having been selected by Count Andrassy as Consular Delegate for Bulgaria.

M. de Zwiedinek is a gentleman of considerable knowledge of the East, and of great tact and experience; he occupied several important Consular posts in Turkey, and when Austrian Consul-General at Trebizond he had temporarily charge of the British Consulate in 1871; he was subsequently Consul-General in Syria, and succeeded here to Baron Calice in the beginning of 1877.

The Prince of Roumania, appreciating his services here, has conferred upon him on his departure from this country the rank of a Commander of the Star of Roumania.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 614.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 202. Political.)

Bucharest, October 21, 1878.

My Lord,

FOLLOWING the example of greater military nations, and with a view to strengthen the patriotic feelings of his troops, and testify to their loyalty and bravery, the Prince of Roumania determined to hold a triumphal entry into his capital at the head of them with the trophies taken at Plevna during the late war. This took place yesterday at noon, and the day was kept as a national holiday.

As the militia has been disbanded, it could only be represented by a number of deputations from different regiments. The regular troops were likewise not very

numerous, and consisted only of two regiments of cavalry, two regiments of artillery five regiments of the line, three battalions of rifles, and a few incomplete detachments of militia; some of these will proceed at once to occupy the Dobrudscha.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 615.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 203. Political.)

Bucharest, October 21, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I am informed by Mr. Dimos, the British Vice-Consul at Craiova, that he has ascertained that the forts at Widdin are being demolished by the Russians, inclusive of those facing the Danube.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 616.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 186.)

Belgrade, October 16, 1878.

My Lord,

OWING to the assurances I had on several different occasions received from various members of the Servian Government, I was under the impression that the Servian troops had been withdrawn within the line of frontier laid down in Article XXXVI of the Treaty of Berlin as the future limits of the Principality. Their earnest and apparently sincere protestations of their determination to conform strictly in every respect to the stipulations of that great international compact, and the absence of any protest or remonstrance on the part of the Porte, or of any of the Representatives of the other Signatory Powers at Belgrade, further strengthened that impression.

It now appears, and is candidly admitted, that up to the time (the 13th September last), when the International Boundary Commission was expected to arrive at Belgrade, the Servian troops still occupied, in direct violation of Article XLI of the Treaty, an extensive tract of Turkish territory, as roughly shown in the accompanying tracing which I have caused to be drawn up on information furnished to his Government by the Austrian Boundary Commissioner. They were then withdrawn some distance back to the positions they now hold, but which are still considerably in advance of the new Servian frontier, even admitting all the claims put forward by Prince Milan and his Government, as your Lordship will see at a glance from the inclosed sketch copied from the one transmitted by Major Wilson in his despatch of the 10th instant.

Knowing the value Her Majesty's Government attach to the strict and impartial execution of the Treaty of Berlin, I lost no time in calling upon M. Ristic for explanations, as soon as I had all the facts of the case fully before me. I pointed out to his Excellency, in very plain terms, how surprised and grieved I was to have found, on the clearest possible evidence, that all the assurances his Government had been giving me of their having withdrawn their troops within the new limits assigned to the Principality, and of their firm intention to comply with all their Treaty obligations, were in flagrant contradiction with the language he had recently held at Vienna and with the information I had just received from Her Majesty's Boundary Commissioner at Nisch.

His Excellency first met my statements with what amounted to a flat denial, for he maintained that no assurances of the kind I mentioned had ever been given to me, and that his Government had, from the very beginning, openly admitted that their troops held possession of Turkish territory beyond the newly ceded districts. Finding that the evidence against him on this point was too strong his Excellency shifted his ground, and said that I must have completely mistaken the sense of what had been said to me, and that the assurances I might have received referred to the withdrawal of the Servian troops within the line of demarcation agreed upon between the belligerents at the time of the armistice of San Stefano, and not, as I misapprehended,

within the new frontier. He did not explain, however, why, at the date of the meeting of the Boundary Commission, the Servian troops had fallen back from the positions they occupied up to that date, nor whether their present or their former positions were those they were entitled to occupy in virtue of the above armistice.

I thereupon remarked to his Excellency that from the moment the Treaty of Berlin had been concluded, and Servia had signified to the Signatory Powers her intention to submit to its stipulations, this armistice, which I now for the first time heard him speak of, had *ipso facto* ceased to be in force, as he must have all along been perfectly well aware. I therefore urged that I did not see how his rather bold assertion, that I had totally misunderstood the sense of the language held to me on several distinct occasions, and likewise in the presence of Her Majesty's Commissioner, could affect the question at issue between us, since it must have been clear to him, as well as the other members of the Government, that I had accepted their assurances as referring to a Treaty which I was bound to assist in carrying out on behalf of Her Majesty's Government, and not to an armistice with which, officially, I could have nothing to do, and which, moreover, had long ceased to be in force.

As was but natural, his Excellency appeared equally dissatisfied with my having raised this question, and not agreeing to accept his very lame explanations. Nevertheless, he did not think proper to offer any apology for this gross evasion by Servia of her Treaty obligations, or to manifest any intention of withdrawing the Servian troops from the positions they still occupy beyond the new limits of the Principality, although he assured me they would be ordered to retire from them as soon as the International Boundary Commission had brought its labours to a conclusion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 616.

Tracing of Positions occupied by Servian Troops up to 13th September.

Inclosure 2 in No. 616.

Tracing of Line of Outposts held by Servian Troops at the time of the Armistice.

No. 617.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 187. Secret and Confidential.)

Belgrade, October 16, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 186 of this same date on the evasion by Servia of her Treaty obligations, I have to add that the assurances I received on the subject of the withdrawal of the Servian troops within the new limits of the Principality were addressed to me not only by M. Ristic himself, and in his absence by M. Radivoi Miloïkovitch, but likewise on more than one occasion by Prince Milan in person.

It is just though barely possible, that Messieurs Ristic and Miloïkovitch may have employed the word "demarcation" instead of the word "frontier;" but I firmly believe they generally used the latter and not the former. In any case their object was clearly to conceal from me the infraction of the Treaty of which their Government was guilty, for they were fully aware I would, as in duty bound, immediately bring the matter under the notice of Her Majesty's Government.

I regret to say the same vague doubt cannot exist in regard to the terms employed by Prince Milan. His Highness assured me repeatedly that his troops had been withdrawn within the Servian frontier, and on the last occasion he honoured me with an audience he distinctly expressed himself in that sense, in the presence of Major Wilson and my brother, Lieutenant-Colonel H. Gould, who accidentally assisted at the interview. His Highness has so successfully practised the art of deception in this instance, that he left M. Aubaret, the French member of the Boundary Commission, under the impression that the Servian troops were posted a long way within the

To face page 414 (a)

FROM AUSTRIAN STAFF MAP
C SERVIAN ADVANCED POSITIONS.

Blue line represents boundary according to Treaty.

Yellow lines approximate position of Servian advanced posts on rmination of the War.

A. *(Yellow and green lines) is district from which the Servian troops were withdrawn during the first fortnight of September.*

B. *(Yellow and purple lines) is district still occupied partially or completely by Servian troops.*

Red line takes in the district, up to 13th September, last occupied e Servian troops according to Report of the Austrian Com mer.

TRACING FROM AUSTRIAN STAFF MAP
SHOWING SERVIAN ADVANCED POSITIONS.

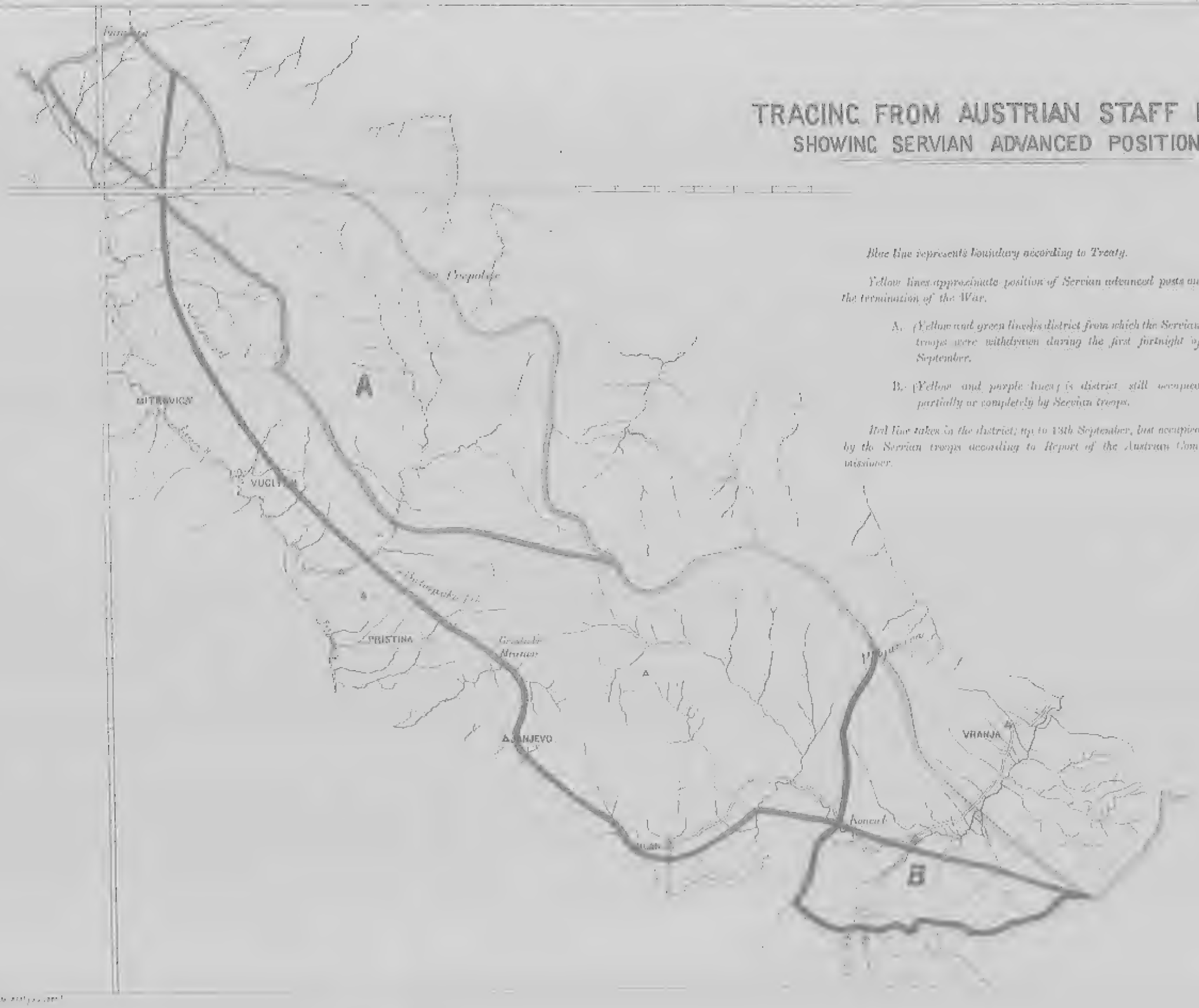
Blue Line represents boundary according to Treaty.

Yellow lines approximate position of Servian advanced posts on the termination of the War.

A. *Yellow and green lines district from which the Servian troops were withdrawn during the first fortnight of September.*

B. *Yellow and purple lines district still occupied partially or completely by Servian troops.*

Red Line takes in the district, up to 13th September, but occupied by the Servian troops according to Report of the Austrian Commissioner.



Servian frontiers. This gentleman was rather proud of having, after much fencing, obtained this valuable admission from the Prince, and appealed to me whether, under such circumstances, and considering the unsettled condition of the border districts, it would be prudent, on the part of the Commission, to proceed to the delimitation of the frontier on the side of Albania.

I am equally positive there never has been to my knowledge any question about the armistice, or of Turkish territory occupied by Servian troops in virtue of it, and, as it is now alleged, with the concurrence of the Porte. M. Ristic asserts that this fact was known to all my colleagues, and that he never attempted to conceal it. I cannot, of course, answer for what may have passed between his Excellency and some of my colleagues, but certainly none of them ever broached the subject to me.

As I have personally ascertained, it is quite true that during his recent visit to Vienna on his way back to Servia, M. Ristic stated to Baron Calichc, and I believe also to Count Andrassy, that, considering Servia held more territory than she was entitled to under the Treaty of Berlin, it was wholly in the interest of the Porte to hasten the settlement of the frontier question, and that consequently it was a matter of perfect indifference to him how long things were allowed to remain in their present state. In the meanwhile, Prince Milan and M. Miloïkovitch were protesting to me at Belgrade that Servia had conformed in all respects to the stipulations of the Treaty which affected her, and that, owing to the state of the national finances, it was almost an affair of life and death to her to obtain a speedy settlement of this very question on account of the threatening and aggressive attitude of the Albanians.

M. Ristic likewise expressed to me his astonishment that I should notice the subject at all, seeing that Count Andrassy had not thought proper to address him any remonstrances, remarking only that Servia was in a more favourable position than Montenegro, since the former Principality was in possession of Turkish territory to which she could lay no claim, whereas the latter had not yet succeeded in obtaining from the Porte the cession of territory which had been formally made over to it by the Great Powers. His Excellency then asked what object his Government could have had in concealing from me a fact which must have become known to every one in the course of time. I did not attempt to enlighten his Excellency respecting a matter with which he must have been so much better acquainted than I; but most probably he hoped that Servia would be the better able to enforce her claims to additional territory, when the question of fixing her frontiers should come up for final settlement, either by direct negotiation between her and Turkey or by the Delegates of the Signatory Powers, if she succeeded in remaining in undisturbed possession of Turkish territory beyond the limits assigned to her.

Finally, his Excellency assumed an altogether defiant attitude, and solemnly warned me of the disagreeable personal consequences that might ensue if I persisted in maintaining my views of the conduct of his Government in this transaction, and in bringing them before Her Majesty's Government, and thereby shaking that mutual confidence on which he laid the greatest possible value.

I stated, in reply, that however much I regretted it there was but one course open to me, and that was, to report the matter to your Lordship; but that unless I received special instructions I would not take any further action on my own responsibility.

However, had it not been that Her Majesty's Boundary Commissioner seems to think that the continued presence of the Servian troops in their present positions will tend to facilitate the labours of the Commission, I would not have hesitated to call officially the attention of the Representatives of the other Signatory Powers to this evasion on the part of Servia of the obligations imposed on her under Article XLI of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 618.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 25.)

(No. 188. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, October* 16, 1878.

REFERRING to my recording despatch No. 181 of the 5th instant, in which I reported that Prince was extremely disappointed at not having received any answer to

his personal message to the Sultan, proposing the immediate resumption of those amicable and intimate relations which had formerly subsisted between the two countries, I have the satisfaction to acquaint your Lordship that His Imperial Majesty has deigned to address to His Highness a telegram couched in very friendly terms, and that M. Ristic has requested me to convey to your Lordship and Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople his sincere thanks for the kind exertions made on behalf of Prince Milan in order to bring about this happy result.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 619.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 190. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, October* 17, 1878.

I FIND from Major Wilson's Confidential despatch No. 8 of the 10th instant, paragraph 6, that he has been told his Italian colleague is instructed to support any claim made by the Servian Commissioners.

Considering the views expressed by the Italian Plenipotentiaries at the Congress of Berlin with regard to the cession of Turkish territory to Servia, it would be very strange indeed if the Italian Commissioner had been instructed to act in a totally opposite sense. It is, nevertheless, quite possible, as I have reason to believe that he has been strongly influenced in favour of Servia since his arrival in the country, and that, notwithstanding the tenor of the instructions he has received from his Government, he may be induced to lend her his entire support.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 620.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 191.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, October* 17, 1878.

ON closer observation, I have found some discrepancies, which will, no doubt, be soon cleared up, in the two tracings inclosed in my despatch No. 186 of yesterday's date, on the evasion by Servia of her obligations to withdraw her troops within her new frontiers at the expiration of fifteen days after the exchange of the ratifications of the Treaty of Berlin. However, the first tracing, as your Lordship is aware, was drawn up on information contained in an official Report of the Austrian Boundary Commissioner, and purports to give the positions held by the Servian troops up to the 13th ultimo, or thereabouts.

The second is merely copied from a rough tracing made by the British Boundary Commissioner, and is intended to show the line occupied by the Servian outposts at the conclusion of the armistice.

If both should prove to be even approximately correct in these two respects, it would follow that, instead of respecting the line of demarcation agreed to at the time of the armistice, the Servian troops must have subsequently advanced much further into the Turkish territory. This fact would materially affect the plea urged by Prince Milan and his Government, that they have merely been acting on the defensive, and show, on the contrary, that they, and not the Albanians, have, by being the aggressors, provoked the partial conflicts which have led to the great loss of life on both sides reported by Major Wilson.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 621.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 192.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, October* 18, 1878.

IN obedience to the instructions conveyed to me in your Lordship's despatch No. 27 of the 9th instant relative to the assumption by Prince Milan of the title of His Highness, I have consulted my French and Austrian colleagues as to the course pursued in this matter by their respective Governments. The former is still awaiting a reply to his communication on the subject, and the latter was directed some time back by telegraph to notify to the Servian Government that the Emperor of Austria would be pleased to recognize the new title assumed by Prince Milan, and that, whilst a formal note to that effect from the Imperial Government would be delivered to them in due course, the fact would be communicated on behalf of His Imperial Majesty to Prince Milan in person by his representative at Belgrade.

I have, therefore, under the circumstances, had no option but to defer taking any further steps for the present. I have, however, been informally told by M. Ristic that Prince Milan intends shortly following the example set him by Prince Charles of Roumania, and taking likewise the higher title of Royal Highness. The way this fresh innovation is to be brought about is, I understand, for the sake of appearances, to be by a vote of the Skuptchina, conferring upon His Highness this addition to th title he has only just assumed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 622.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 193.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, October* 18, 1878.

IN my despatch No. 180 of the 4th instant, I ventured to call your Lordship's attention to the utterly destitute condition of the vast majority of the numerous refugees from Bosnia who have fled into Servia, and the somewhat harsh refusal of the Austro-Hungarian Government to facilitate their return to their homes. I am happy to say the Imperial Government has just notified to the Servian Government that it has granted them a full and complete amnesty, and that in consequence these Bosnian refugees, to whatever class or condition they may belong, can at once return to their homes without the slightest fear of molestation.

The city of Belgrade is, however, still full of Turkish officials, military officers, and nizams with their families, among whom great distress is said to prevail, notwithstanding the humane efforts of the Servian authorities to relieve it. The conduct of these unfortunate people has in every respect been beyond all praise, for not a single complaint has been heard against them, although large bodies of them have had to march long distances through the country under the nominal escort of one or two police officers. They are patiently waiting to be conveyed back to Constantinople, but I am not aware whether any arrangement has yet been made for the purpose. The Austrian Agent here, to whom I mentioned the subject, told me his Government would have nothing to do with them, as it considered Servia to be bound to find the money necessary to cover the expense of transporting them back to Turkey. How this is to be done in the present straightened circumstances of the Servian Treasury is more than I am prepared to say.

Singularly enough, none of these poor people have yet applied to this agence for relief.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 623.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 195.)
Belgrade, October 19, 1878.

My Lord,

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs has informed me that, should the Porte raise no objection to the selection as Servian Representative of M. Philip Christic, he will shortly return to Constantinople with the rank of Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary.

He has at the same time made known that the Servian Government have decided upon conferring the rank of Minister Plenipotentiary on their future Agents to the principal Courts of Europe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 624.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 504.)
Athens, October 16, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that, with reference to your Lordship's telegram dated the 14th instant, in order to increase the chances of a pacific solution of the Greek frontier question, I informed M. Delyanni to-day that the Porte seemed inclined to make concessions.

The Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs announced his satisfaction that the Porte appeared at length disposed to yield to the necessity of fulfilling the wishes of Berlin Congress.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 625.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 2. Political.)
Philippopolis, October 17, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that, having arrived here on the way to Bulgaria on the 12th instant, I at once presented myself to his Excellency the Ambassador, from whom I received instruction and advice regarding the line of action suited to my duties in Bulgaria.

His Excellency subsequently presented me to his Highness the Grand Vizier, who promised the exequatur asked for in the name of Her Majesty's Government. His Excellency also introduced me to the several Representatives of the co-Signatory European Powers, by whom I was courteously received and assured of due co-operation. His Excellency Prince Labanoff's temporary absence at Adrianople has, however, thus far delayed the audience, which is considered indispensable before I set out for my post.

This I trust to do on Monday next, passing, at his Excellency the Ambassador's desire, through Adrianople and Philippopolis, at which latter place his Highness the Imperial Russian Commissioner is stated to be at present residing, on his way to Bulgaria.

From the various Embassies I understand that the provisional residence of the Consuls-General and Delegates *ad hoc* for Bulgaria will be the town of Sofia, and thither I shall accordingly proceed in the first instance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 626.

Colonel Home, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 21.)
Royal Hotel, Pera, October 17, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I received a notification on Friday last, the 11th, of the appointment of Tahir Pasha and several other officers of the Turkish army to act on the Bulgarian Boundary Commission. It is hoped that the first meeting of the Commission may take place on Saturday, the 19th, or Monday, the 21st instant.

From this it is evident that the field work can hardly begin before the first week in November.

The Commission will begin at the Dobrudscha, but I cannot hold out any hopes of completing that frontier this year, or indeed of doing much towards its completion.

Indeed, it appears to me very questionable if, bearing in mind the last paragraph of your Lordship's despatch No. 3 of the 9th September, the expense of placing a surveying party in the field should at this advanced season of the year be incurred.

Subject to such instructions as your Lordship may be pleased to issue on my despatches Nos. 16 and 17, I propose to be guided by the action the Roumun Government may take in reply to the application Her Majesty's Ambassador will make to them. *Vide* despatch No. 22.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. HOME.

No. 627.

Colonel Home, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 22.)
Royal Hotel, Pera, October 17, 1878.

My Lord,

HIS Excellency Her Majesty's Ambassador having directed me to inform him of what communication it appeared desirable should be made to the Roumun Government, I had the honour to submit for his Excellency's approval the original of the accompanying Memorandum.

If the Roumun authorities can place a strong force of surveyors in the field, something may yet be done for the completion of the Dobrudscha frontier this year, even should your Lordship direct me not to use the staff at my disposal or incur expense for this survey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. HOME.

Inclosure in No. 627.

Memorandum.

MY instructions direct me to survey the frontier between Bulgaria and Roumania, if the other Commissioners are prepared to take part in the survey.

If the other Commissioners are not so prepared, I am ordered to report by telegraph, in order that the staff may be reduced.

2. I find all the Commissioners consider that the two countries whose frontiers are marked out should themselves make the survey and undertake the labour connected with the matter.

3. I have accordingly reported to Lord Salisbury, and requested that the Roumanian Government might be called on to hold a party of officers and soldiers acquainted with surveying in readiness to undertake the survey jointly with my staff, in case Lord Salisbury approves of the expense being incurred.

4. Submitted, therefore, that his Excellency Her Majesty's Ambassador be good enough to inform Mr. White that in all probability the Commission will begin its labours either at Silistria or Mangalia; that a party of officers and men qualified to survey, with the requisite instruments, be held in readiness to join the Commission so

soon as it arrives on the frontier. A subsequent communication will state the exact place.

5. That the officer in charge of the party be authorized to fix the boundary merely, and make the survey under the instructions of the European Commission, who will point out the exact places to him.

6. That the survey so made be handed over to the European Commission.

7. That the survey so made be handed over to the European Commission, it being distinctly understood that the Roumun authorities in this matter have no voice, but must act entirely under the orders of the Commission appointed under the Treaty of Berlin.

No. 628.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 749.) *Vienna, October 18, 1878.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, I have the honour to inform you that I had the day before, in speaking to Baron Calice, expressed the hope that Count Andrassy might yet be induced to adopt the opinions known to be those of Baron Kallai, as well as of Sir Henry Wolff, in regard to the provisional administration of East Roumelia.

Baron Calice repeated that Count Andrassy, as I have before reported to your Lordship, considered that our great object should be to secure the withdrawal of the Russians at the proper time, everything else being comparatively unimportant, and I answered, as I had previously done, that however essential this might be, it could not be a matter of indifference to leave the administration of the province in the unconfined direction of the Russians for six months, during which they might be taking means for rendering it almost impossible to carry out the projects to be concerted by the Commission, and his Excellency took a note of my observations in order to forward them to Count Andrassy.

With respect to the amount of support that Baron Kallai is likely to be instructed to give to Her Majesty's Commissioners in the Project of Organization, I would observe that Count Andrassy is not favourable to the concession of too large a measure of autonomy to the province, the safety of the Empire making it desirable, in his opinion, that the Porte should continue to exercise within it as much authority as is compatible with security for a good administration, and that with this object the law of the vilayets should be taken as the basis for the new organization, without being more modified than appeared absolutely indispensable.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 629.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 750.) *Vienna, October 21, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the inclosed despatch, which has been addressed to me by Colonel Gonne, Military Attaché to this Embassy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 629.

Lieutenant-Colonel Gonne to Sir H. Elliot.

Vienna, October 10, 1878.

Sir,

IN conversation with the War Minister I obtained the following information:—

The sum spent on occupation at the present date is 70 000,000 gulden, but there

are some outstanding debts. Count Bylandt undertakes that the total expenditure for the year 1878 shall not pass 100,000,000 gulden. The deficit is therefore 40,000,000 gulden, to be divided between Austria and Hungary. There will not be a joint Imperial loan.

The Count complains of the difficulty caused by the dual Government; the question is, will the occupied provinces be ruled from Vienna or Pesth? A Company is ready to work the coal mines on the banks of the Narenta, near Mostar, if Vienna governs, but will sell its plant the day Pesth takes command. Again, there are disputes whether the gendarmerie shall be after the Austrian or Hungarian model.

The War Minister is by no means satisfied with Philippovich as a soldier: "He rushed on to take Serajevo like a madman, without caring for what took place on flank or rear. We hope he will prove to be a good administrator. At any rate no change is possible at the moment. Jovanovitz has done so well that, in the end, it is possible that he will have charge of Bosnia as well as Herzegovina. The idea of striking a blow at Serajevo at once for a moral effect was shared by Andrassy but not by me."

Other Generals say that the Emperor's birthday was a cause of trouble, and point to Plevna last year as an argument against birthday presents.

All begin to do Szapary full credit for his retreat on Doboj in place of Samai, his base of operations, and say that he averted a disaster.

The War Minister questioned me regarding the line of communication, and said that he had taken steps to remove all the faults I ventured to point out. These were:—

1. That an Etappen Commandant remains at his station, and does not inspect or try to obviate the difficulties existing on his portion of road.

2. The want of an efficient road police.

3. The want of signals to prevent two columns marching in opposite directions from entering a defile where the road is not sufficiently broad.

4. The necessity of having "heidos" stationed at places where the regulated horse power is insufficient.

5. The necessity of inspecting the country carts to ascertain their strength, and whether they have drags, &c.

With regard to No. 4, it appears that Baron Rodic gave efficient help to Jovanovitz, by having oxen sent to supplement and with the artillery to take the place of horse power on every difficult march.

Jovanovitz used exclusively oxen for his guns in the mountains, and I myself witnessed instances where eight oxen performed work which sixteen horses could not effect. Moreover, their steady pull is less calculated to break "traces."

The present duty of the War Minister is to work a reduction in the estimates already passed by the Delegations.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. GONNE, *Lieutenant-Colonel, 17th Lancers, Military Attaché.*

No. 630.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 752.)

My Lord, *Vienna, October 21, 1878.*

SIR HENRY LAYARD, by his confidential telegram to your Lordship of the 12th instant, conveyed the wish of the Sultan that Her Majesty's Government would assist him in coming to an arrangement with the Austro-Hungarian Government about Bosnia, of a nature very closely resembling the Convention which the Porte had just declared His Majesty could never conclude after the manner in which the occupation had been carried out.

During Count Andrassy's absence from Vienna I cannot even feel the ground with a view of gathering how any such suggestion would be received, but the moment when the Porte is regarded here as having offensively refused to come to any arrangement, even if it should contain a full recognition of the Sultan's authority and should fix the duration of the occupation, does not appear opportune for again bringing it forward. After the ill-judged Circular of the Porte, Count Andrassy will certainly not be found more yielding than he was before it, and it would be useless again to propose to him to consent to fix a term for the duration of the occupation, and your Lordship would not, I believe, even think it desirable that he should do so, and thus prepare

the way for future difficulties. When it was determined at Berlin that Austria should occupy and administer Bosnia, it was perfectly understood by the Turkish Plenipotentiaries, as well as by everyone else, that ultimate annexation was intended, and the object was to make this decision as little abrupt and as little painful to the Porte as possible, but no termination of the occupation or restoration of the province to Turkey was contemplated.

Count Andrassy still desires that the relations of the two countries should be cordial, and as the interests of both make it highly desirable that they should be so, it might perhaps be advantageous and practicable to arrive at an exchange of notes, by which some at least of the objects desired by the Sultan should be secured, such as the employment of Mussulmans, with a promise for them of full protection and equal rights with Christians, and the settlement of a line beyond which the Austrian administration should not extend.

I shall take the earliest opportunity I can find of ascertaining whether it seems likely that Count Andrassy would be disposed, after what has occurred, to come to any such agreement, but sharp recriminations are a bad preparation for friendly understandings.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 631.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 754.)
My Lord, *Vienna, October* 21, 1878.

I HAVE again asked whether anything had been decided about the Tariff upon which duties will be levied on goods introduced into Bosnia, and am informed by Baron Orczy that the Commission which is sitting to organize the details of the provisional administration has not completed its work, but that it is decided that it is the Turkish Tariff which will be enforced.

The application of the Austro-Hungarian Tariff would have savoured too much of a completed incorporation of the province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 632.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 755.)
My Lord, *Vienna, October* 21, 1878.

PRINCE WREDE, the Austrian Agent at Belgrade, who has just returned to Vienna, has informed Baron Orczy that since the title of Royal Highness has been recognized for Prince Charles, the Prince of Servia has set his heart upon obtaining it likewise. Prince Wrede says that if the Powers are unwilling to recognize this title it will be well that they should at once intimate their opinions to the Prince, who is likely otherwise to announce to them his assumption of it.

Baron Orczy was writing to ask Count Andrassy what he thought about it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 633.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 844.)
My Lord, *Paris, October* 24, 1878.

M. CALLIMAKI CATARGI, the Roumanian Agent here, called upon me a few days ago, and earnestly begged me to impress upon Her Majesty's Government the very great importance which the Roumanian Government attached to receiving immediately the formal recognition by the Powers of Europe, and especially by Great Britain, of the independence of the Principality.

Roumania had, M. Callimaki Catargi said, evacuated the Bessarabian territory which she was called upon to cede, and had done all in her power to fulfil the requirements of Europe as laid down in the Treaty of Berlin.

The Jewish question did, indeed, remain, but it was only in consequence of the formalities prescribed by the Roumanian Constitution that it was still unsettled. The Government was fully determined to execute the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin respecting religious equality with the same exactness which it had shown in making the territorial sacrifice imposed by that Treaty. It only required the time absolutely necessary to go through the constitutional formalities. It would, however, have difficulties to contend with, and it begged the Governments, parties to the Treaty, to strengthen its hands, instead of weakening them. There was no greater mistake than to suppose that the removal of the Jewish disabilities would be rendered more certain by withholding the recognition of independence until it was accomplished. On the contrary, the delay in according this recognition would simply serve to weaken and discredit the Ministry, which would, on the contrary, need an increase of reputation and influence to enable it to carry a measure opposed to strong and widely-spread national prejudices.

M. Callimaki proceeded to say that the ability and good-will of Mr. White, the Representative of Great Britain at Bucharest, were highly appreciated by the Government and people of Roumania, but that it was impossible that he could, in the present state of things, exercise the influence which would belong to him, if he were more formally accredited and if he held a higher and a more definite diplomatic rank.

M. Callimaki Catargi added that the large proportion of Mussulmans in the Dobrudscha required a solution of the religious question applying to them as well as to the Jews, and that his Government would certainly effect a satisfactory solution, if only the Powers of Europe would assist it by recognizing at once the independence accorded by the Treaty of Berlin.

I told M. Callimaki Catargi, in compliance with a request from him, that I would report to your Lordship what he had said.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 634.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 845.)
My Lord, *Paris, October* 24, 1878.

I REPEATED yesterday to M. Waddington the substance of the conversation with M. Callimaki Catargi, which is reported in my immediately preceding despatch No. 844 of to-day.

M. Waddington said M. Callimaki Catargi had stated to him the same arguments in favour of the immediate recognition of Roumania, but had not convinced him that any action in the matter would be advisable at this moment. He added that, on the contrary, he was of opinion that it would be advisable to wait at least until the Legislative Body *ad hoc*, to which the question must, it seemed, be referred, had at all events taken some first step towards establishing religious equality.

Finally, M. Waddington said that he had not at all changed the views which had been expressed to you, under instructions from him, by the French Chargé d'Affaires.

The communication referred to by M. Waddington was that recorded in your Lordship's despatch to me No. 653 of the 7th instant, and recited in the *note verbale* presented by me to his Excellency on the 11th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 635.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 816.)
My Lord, *Paris, October 24, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a letter from M. Callimaki Catargi, requesting me to announce to Her Majesty's Government that in conformity with Article LIII of the Treaty of Berlin, a Roumanian Member of the Commission of the Danube will be immediately appointed.

I inclose also a copy of a second letter from M. Callimaki Catargi, in which he recounts the steps taken by the Roumanian Government to execute the Treaty of Berlin, and requests that, in consideration of these steps, Her Majesty's Government will no longer delay to establish their diplomatic relations with Roumania on a footing in conformity with the new international position of the country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 635.

M. Callimaki Catargi to Lord Lyons.

Paris, le 22 Octobre, 1878.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

PAR une dépêche en date du 18 Octobre courant, M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Roumanie m'invite à recourir à votre bienveillante entremise pour annoncer au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique qu'en conformité de l'Article LIII du Traité de Berlin, qui stipule, en faveur de la Roumanie, le droit d'être représentée au sein de la Commission Européenne du Danube, le Commissaire Roumain sera incessamment désigné.

Je dois aussi prier le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine de vouloir bien informer le Représentant Anglais dans la Commission que notre Commissaire se présentera à la prochaine réunion fixée au 5 Novembre pour prendre part à ses travaux.

Le Gouvernement Princier exprime à cette occasion l'espoir de voir la Commission Européenne du Danube et en particulier le Commissaire Anglais accueillir favorablement le Représentant de la Roumanie.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signed) CALLIMAKI CATARGI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 635.

M. Callimaki Catargi to Lord Lyons.

Paris, le 23 Octobre, 1878.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

J'AI l'honneur de vous communiquer ci-joint en traduction les résolutions votées par le Corps Législatif Roumain réunis en Session extraordinaire pour fixer la conduite de notre Gouvernement en présence du Traité de Berlin.

Vous verrez M. l'Ambassadeur par la lecture de ces actes que notre Parlement a décidé :—

1. Que les autorités civiles et militaires Roumaines quitteraient la Bessarabie.
2. Qu'il serait pris possession du Delta du Danube et de la Dobroudja.
3. Qu'une Assemblée Constituante de Révision serait convoquée, dans les délais de rigueur, à l'effet de mettre les lois organiques intérieures en accord avec les principes d'égalité proclamés par le Congrès.

Sur le premier point, M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Roumanie m'informe que le transfert décidé par l'Europe est présentement un fait accompli. La Bessarabie est déjà passée de la domination Roumaine sous la domination Russe.

En ce qui concerne le Delta du Danube et la Dobroudja, le Gouvernement demande à entrer dès maintenant en possession des territoires qui lui ont été assignés par l'Article XLVI du Traité de Berlin, et il a pris toutes ses dispositions à cet effet. Ce n'est donc plus de lui que dépend désormais, sous ce rapport, le prompt accomplissement des volontés de l'Europe.

Enfin, à l'égard des principes d'égalité inscrits dans le Traité de Berlin, le

Gouvernement et la nation, par l'organe du Corps Législatif, se sont engagés à réviser constitutionnellement le régime intérieur et à y introduire les modifications désirées.

En présence de la consécration solennelle et définitive que la représentation nationale, dans son patriotisme éclairé, a donnée aux déclarations qu'il avait déjà faites aux Puissances, le Gouvernement Princier espère qu'il sera tenu compte à la Roumanie de la déférence empressée qu'elle a montrée pour toutes les décisions du Congrès.

Il me charge en conséquence, M. l'Ambassadeur, de faire appel à votre bienveillante intervention auprès du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine pour qu'en considération des gages effectifs que nous avons déjà donnés, il veuille bien ne plus différer d'attribuer aux relations diplomatiques de la Grande Bretagne avec notre pays un caractère conforme à la nouvelle position internationale de la Roumanie.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signed) CALLIMAKI CATARGI.

Inclosure 3 in No. 635.

Traduction de la Motion votée par le Sénat de Roumanie, en Session Extraordinaire, dans la Séance du $\frac{28 \text{ Septembre}}{10 \text{ Octobre}}$, 1878, *à la majorité de* 48 *voix contre* 8.

Messieurs les Sénateurs,

VOTRE Commission a étudié la correspondance diplomatique du Gouvernement relative au Traité de Berlin du 13 Juillet, 1878. Elle a vu avec une profonde affliction que les Puissances Européennes, par leur volonté collective et dans l'intérêt de la paix générale, ont imposé à la Roumanie de douloureux sacrifices. Toutefois elle propose que le Gouvernement soit autorisé à se conformer à cet égard au Traité de Berlin.

Elle est également d'avis d'autoriser le Gouvernement à prendre possession de la Dobroudja et du Delta du Danube, et à les gérer par des réglements d'administration publique, jusqu'à la Convocation d'une Assemblée Constituante.

Enfin la Commission propose au Sénat d'engager le Gouvernement, tant en vue des autres questions de la Dobroudja qu'en vue des autres questions résultant du Traité de Berlin, à convoquer au plus tard pendant le cours de la prochaine Session ordinaire de trois mois, une Assemblée Constituante de Révision, conformément à l'Article 129 de la Constitution.

En conséquence vous êtes priés, MM. les Sénateurs, de voter ces conclusions.

Inclosure 4 in No. 635.

Traduction de la Motion votée par la Chambre des Députés de Roumanie, en Session Extraordinaire, dans la Séance du $\frac{28 \text{ Septembre}}{10 \text{ Octobre}}$, 1878, *à la majorité de* 83 *voix contre* 27.

L'ASSEMBLÉE des Députés, prenant connaissance des dispositions du Traité de Berlin relatifs à la Roumanie, forcée par la décision des Puissances, et ne voulant pas être un obstacle à la consolidation de la paix, autorise le Gouvernement à se conformer à la volonté collective de l'Europe en retirant les autorités civiles et militaires de la Bessarabie, et en prenant possession de la Dobroudja, du Delta du Danube, et de l'Ile des Serpents.

Les autres questions se régleront par la voie constitutionnelle.

No. 636.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 817. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, October 24, 1878.*

YESTERDAY, in execution of instructions which I received from your Lordship by telegraph, I asked M. Waddington whether the French Government would be

willing to come to an agreement with that of Her Majesty as to the steps which the Porte should take with regard to the civil administration of Eastern Roumelia.

I said that the Turkish Government represented that no time should be lost in organizing the gendarmerie and the militia, and in executing, with regard to other points, the Treaty of Berlin, as otherwise Russia might allege as a pretext for not withdrawing her troops that there was nothing to take their place for the maintenance of order.

I proceeded to inquire of M. Waddington whether the French Government would co-operate with Her Majesty's Government in endeavouring to carry these measures into effect, and, moreover, in supporting the nomination by the Porte of Rustem Pasha as Governor of Roumelia.

M. Waddington said that he must take a short time to reflect, but that he would give me an answer without any unnecessary delay.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 637.

M. de Giers to M. Bartholomei.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by M. Bartholomei, October 25.)

(Télégraphique.)

UN télégramme du Sénateur de Giers en date de Livadia, le $\frac{14}{26}$ Octobre, 1878, porte ce qui suit :—

"Colonel Home, Commissaire Anglais pour délimitation de Bulgarie, déclare que d'après ses instructions le travail de la Commission de Délimitation de la Serbie doit être soumis à la sanction de la Commission de la Bulgarie. Aucun des autres Délégués n'a dans ses instructions une pareille condition. Afin de prévenir toute difficulté et retard qui pourraient en résulter, prions le Gouvernement Britannique de renoncer à condition susmentionnée. Veuillez faire dans ce sens démarches au Foreign Office, et informez nous du résultat.

No. 638.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 943.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 24, 1878.*

PORTE has received a telegram announcing entrance of large bands of Bulgarians into Macedonia, principally from side of Sofia. They have assembled at Samakow in order to attack Mussulman villages in the neighbourhood of Dospat. Yeni-keui and six other neighbouring Mussulman villages have been completely destroyed. They have interrupted communications with Gradishnitza with the object of attacking that town, and are advancing in large numbers from Sofia on Dunitzi. The districts of Melnik and Tricka are in a state of insurrection. The Mussulmans are preparing to defend themselves.

No. 639.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

Paris, October 24, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

YELLOW book will be distributed about the 5th November, and French Minister for Foreign Affairs particularly begs that your letter to him of the 7th July, his despatch of the 21st July, 1878, and your despatch of the 7th August, shall not be published in England before they appear here.

No. 640.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, October 25, 1878.*

SERVIAN troops have evacuated territory [beyond towards, *sic*] Bulgurin in consequence of the forcible representations of the Russian Governor-General. It is reported that a Servian detachment occupying a guard-house on Bulgarian ground, near Zaichar, has been disarmed and ejected by a Bulgarian force under responsible officers.

No. 641.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, October 25, 1878.*

WERE it possible to cause Representatives of Great Powers to be furnished with identical instructions, it would much facilitate and hasten due compliance by Servia of her Treaty obligations.

Austrian and French Agents are without instructions, whilst Russian and Italian Agents invariably support Servian views.

Above communicated to Vienna.

No. 642.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 944.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 24, 1878.*

I HAVE received answer about reforms. Substance as follows :—

First, Porte recognizes necessity of forming gendarmerie on model of European nations. Some European officers will be placed on the central Council of Administration of the Gendarmerie, and foreign officers will be employed as instructors until the institution is completely organized.

Secondly, Porte is preparing judicial reforms, and a plan of organization of Tribunals, conformably to ideas of Her Majesty's Government. The assistance of European legislators could be largely utilized in this work, but Porte considers that it would be opposed to all principles of administrative justice that foreign Judges should have powers superior to their colleagues, so that no judgment should be given without their assent. It also objects to employing foreigners as Judges who are unacquainted with the languages, laws, and customs of the country, but it will [employ ?] foreigners as inspectors, whom it proposes to send into every vilayet to supervise the administration of justice.

Thirdly, Porte accepts abolition of tithes in principle, but proposes to apply it and a new system of taxation to one or other of two provinces first, and to extend them to other parts of the Empire when advantages have been proved by experience. During the period of transition and trial, Porte will take into its service a certain number of foreigners versed in financial science to carry out this reform.

Porte will avail itself of these foreign functionaries and officers until organization of the three above-mentioned branches of administration is complete.

Porte entirely participates in the views of Her Majesty's Government on the subject of the stability of the Valis, the Judges, and collectors; and they will be appointed for at least five years, and shall only be dismissed if they have committed a crime or offence, if they should resign, or if their dismissal is considered indispensable by the Government in some great public interest.

Porte's note will be sent by messenger to-morrow.

It appears to me that proposals as regards Inspectors of Tribunals, if properly carried out, is acceptable.

No. 643.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 945.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 24, 1878.*

FOLLOWING sent to Consul Sandwith :—

"Sultan's Iradé confirming arrangements with Cretan Assembly has been sent to the Porte, and the arrangements are being prepared."

No. 644.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 946.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 25, 1878.*

MR. CALVERT telegraphs from Philippopolis dated yesterday :—

"I am informed confidentially that 3,000 Bulgarian volunteers have started, or are about to start from [?] Silistria for Kostendil, with [word undecypherable] 1,000 rifles, and that 10,000 roubles had been collected in former district for the Macedonian insurrection. This may throw some light on the origin of the Bucharest telegram in the 'Times,' announcing that corps of Bulgarian volunteers were being formed at Rustchuk to fight against the English in Afghanistan."

No 645.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 947.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 25, 1878.*

FOLLOWING telegram has been received from Vice-Consul Calvert, dated yesterday :—

"A Report has been current for the last two days that Bulgarians here intend to make a demonstration of active hostility to the International Commission. I am about to inform Governor of Philippopolis."

No. 646.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret and Confidential.) *Athens, October 25, 1878.*

EXCELLENT authority has sent authorized source to inform me that he knows certainly that the newly-organized Eastern Roumelian militia is moving in direction of Macedonia, in order to incite insurrection and to promote union with Eastern Roumelia, detrimental to Hellenic element.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 647.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Corbett.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 25, 1878, 9·45 P.M.*

I HAVE received your telegram of to-day.

I impress on excellent authority that this news is all the more reason for maintaining good relations between Porte and Greece. If Greece lends her aid to diminish Porte's power of resistance the Bulgarians will reap the advantage, and Hellenic race will suffer.

No. 648.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 25, 1878, 6 P.M.*

I WILL take care the three despatches mentioned (July 7, July 21, August 7) do not appear here before they have been published in the Yellow Book at Paris.

We assent to their publishing these despatches, always taking care that the despatch (July 21) is the one concerning Egypt, not that concerning Tunis, which was cancelled.

No. 649.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Corbett.

(No. 208.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 25, 1878.*

THE information which it seems from your telegram, marked Secret and Confidential, of this day, has reached the quarter alluded to, to the effect that a movement is now taking place of the newly-organized Eastern Roumelian militia in the direction of Macedonia, with the object of fomenting insurrection in Macedonia, and of promoting a union with Eastern Roumelia, which would be detrimental to the interests of the Greek population, is of a serious character.

I have, therefore, to instruct you to represent in the same quarter that this news, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, affords additional proof of the soundness of the policy which they have recommended to the Government of His Hellenic Majesty.

The most effective foil to such designs will be found in the maintenance of friendly relations between the Porte and Greece, and Her Majesty's Government have every reason to believe that the Ottoman Government are sincerely desirous to avoid any rupture of those relations. But should Greece lend her aid to diminish the Porte's power of resistance, the insurgent Bulgarians will reap the advantage from such a policy, and consequently the interests of the Hellenic race must suffer.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 650.

The Marquis of Salisbury to M. Bartholomei.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires, *Foreign Office, October 25, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of a telegram from M. de Giers expressing the hope that Her Majesty's Government will not insist upon the line of frontier about to be traced between Bulgaria and Servia by the Servian Commission being submitted for the approval of the Commission for the Demarcation of the Bulgarian frontier. I beg now, in reply, to assure you that Her Majesty's Government are very desirous in respect of these questions of delimitation to take the course which is most convenient to the Powers generally; but at the same time they feel that before all things they are bound to conform rigidly to the prescriptions of the Treaty of Berlin. The second Article of that Treaty describes in detail the whole frontier of Bulgaria on all sides, including that part of it which separates Bulgaria from Servia, and having done so, it proceeds to say :—

"Cette délimitation sera fixée sur les lieux par la Commission Européenne."

This language appears to Her Majesty's Government to prescribe without the slightest ambiguity, that all the limits of Bulgaria without exception are to be fixed by the same Commission. Her Majesty's Government hold that the rule thus laid down by the Treaty cannot be laid aside except by a fresh Convention signed by the Powers who were parties to it.

Perhaps the difficulty might be practically got over by allowing the Servian Commission to trace the line, upon the understanding that the result of their labours is to be submitted for approval to the Bulgarian Commission. In strictness, however, the

only body which is authorized by the Treaty to fix the delimitation between Servia and Bulgaria is the Bulgarian Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 651.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 26.)

(No. 1287.) [B.B.]
My Lord, *Therapia, October 19, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Acting Consul Calvert, giving a shocking account of the ill-treatment to which the repatriated Turks at Souflar, a village to the north-west of Adrianople, are stated to have been subjected.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 651.

Acting Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Adrianople, October 16, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that a shocking account has reached me regarding the condition of the repatriated Turks at Souflar, a village about nine hours north-west of Adrianople. About forty-five families returned to their homes there some five or six weeks ago. Since their arrival no less than thirty men have, I am told, been killed. It is added that their Bulgarian neighbours have reduced those whom they suffer still to live to a veritable state of slavery. They force the Turks to make bricks for them, Bulgarian overseers, armed with whips, keeping them to their incessant toil by dint of the lash. Nor will these Christian taskmasters allow their bondsmen to depart. Two fugitive Turks, who contrived nevertheless to escape, reported this state of things to my informant, throwing themselves at his feet and imploring him with tears to do what he could to save their hapless fellow-villagers from their present cruel treatment and the constant prospect of death before them.

At Karabunar (near the railway station of that name, and two hours from the above-mentioned village of Souflar), which was the scene of the outrages reported in my despatch of the 21st ultimo, the persecuted Turks, taking at their word their Bulgarian oppressors who had threatened them with expulsion, recently made preparations to depart of their own accord. But the Bulgarians, if they ever really meant what they said, have, on second thoughts, evidently come to the conclusion that it would be inconvenient to them to lose the menial services of the despoiled Turks of Karabunar. They (the Bulgarians of Obroukly especially) now raise difficulties and impose as a first condition that the Turks shall transfer to them the title-deeds of their lands and houses, and give them a written declaration that they have no cause of complaint against themselves, the Bulgarians. It is evident that were the Turks to consent to this demand they would be none the more sure of being allowed to depart.

I have learnt the following particulars regarding the Turkish village of Keustik, four hours on this side of Souflar. The inhabitants of the neighbouring Christian villages, namely, Demir Khanli and Inn (Bulgarian), and Kavakli (Greek), behaved well to the Turks. Under their assurances of goodwill the latter did not join in the Mussulman exodus which accompanied the retreat of the Turkish army. The pledge of their Christian neighbours appears to have been faithfully kept so far as the latter are concerned, although about six weeks ago twenty-eight head of cattle belonging to one Hadji Feizullah Aga, a well-to-do Turk, were carried off. Latterly, too, the place was visited by the Chief of the Bulgarian gendarmerie at Mustafa Pasha, one Christo Gatcheff, who, with his myrmidons, seized three Turkish inhabitants and extorted from them 30 liras by beating them almost to death.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

No. 652.

Sir C. Sebright to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 26.)

(No. 48. Political.)
My Lord, *Corfu, October 22, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of a Report received yesterday from Vice-Consul Onofrio, of Santa Maura, whence it appears that the Epirote refugees on the Turco-Acarnanian frontier, tired of Greek hospitality, have at length resolved to return to their homes.

2. It is to be hoped that the promises they have obtained from the Vali of Janina of oblivion as regards the past, and of protection in time to come, will be honourably maintained, although the existence of roaming bands of marauders throughout Lower Epirus leaves but too much room for suspecting that the Ottoman authorities want either the will or the power to give efficient protection to life and property in the province.

3. This state of things is quite inexcusable, considering the large military force confessedly at the disposal of the local Government.

With, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

Inclosure in No. 652.

Vice-Consul Onofrio to Sir C. Sebright.

Sir, *Santa Maura, October 19, 1878.*

REFERRING to my preceding despatches on the subject of the refugees from Epirus, I have now the honour to report that one of their leaders named Cutzivakis, of the village of Botzi (district of Radovisi), appeared last week before the Turkish Consul at Vonitza, and presented a Memorial to him on behalf of himself and the other refugees still in Greece, praying that they might be permitted to return to their own territory, in terms of the amnesty proclaimed by the Sultan in last May, and that, in consideration of their distressed condition, they might be exempted from paying taxes for one year. The Consul transmitted the Memorial to the Porte, and at the same time telegraphed the purport of it to the Vali of Janina, who, in reply, instructed the Consul to inform Cutzivakis that the refugees were at liberty to return, that their safety was guaranteed, and that orders had been given to the authorities on the frontier to protect them, and to afford any assistance of which they might stand in need. On this Cutzivakis crossed over to Prevesa, and after receiving pecuniary assistance from the Mutessarif, Hassan Pasha, proceeded to Arta, and thence to the frontier to communicate to his fellow refugees the favourable reply of the Vali. I now hope to be able to report by next mail that they have all returned to their homes at Radovisi and Tzumerka.

2. Several of the refugees returned to their homes in May last, as reported in my despatch, but the others, who are now the subject of this Report, remained in Greece at the instigation of Cutzivakis and of the other leaders, who perhaps unconsciously were then playing into the hands of a party who, for well-known purposes, did not look with pleasure upon the restoration of order on the Turco-Greek frontier. But I am now in a position to state, without fear of contradiction, that those refugees were even then most anxious to return home as the others had done, but they were afraid to do so, as they were under the direct influence of their leaders, to whom it was whispered from all quarters, official and non-official, "to place no faith in the assurances which were then being given them by the Turks, as the latter would surely find a pretext to molest them, despite all promises." Thus they were eventually induced to make their return conditional upon unacceptable terms, as stated in the despatch above referred to.

3. The return of the refugees at the present moment is all the more significant, because it has been determined upon since Cutzivakis' return from Athens, whither they had deputed him to sound the Government as to the prospects of annexation of their territory to Greece, as well as to remonstrate against the manner in which relief was being distributed to them.

Cutzivakis returned from the capital quite disappointed and disheartened, and

fully convinced that the best course for the refugees was to throw themselves on the mercy of the Porte, and to solicit permission to return to their own territory.

An offer made by the Government a few days ago to grant them lands in the district of Agrinion was rejected.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS ONOFRIO.

No. 653.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 26.)

(No. 851.)
My Lord, *Paris, October 25, 1878.*

IN my despatch No. 799 of the 10th instant I had the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a note in which, in obedience to your orders, I had inquired what was the opinion of the French Government with regard to the administration of Roumelia, pending the final organization of the province.

I have the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship a copy of a note in answer to this inquiry, which I have received from M. Waddington this afternoon.

M. Waddington's opinion appears to be that there would be practical inconvenience in placing in juxtaposition Ottoman authorities and Russian military authorities in Roumelia, and that the present aim should be to hasten the elaboration of the definitive organization of the province.

M. Waddington appears also to consider that it will be better to postpone the appointment of a Governor of the province until the powers of this functionary shall have been regularly defined.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 653.

M. Waddington to Lord Lyons.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Paris, le 24 Octobre, 1878.*

PAR une communication en date du 10 de ce mois, vous avez bien voulu m'exprimer, au nom du Gouvernement de la Reine, le désir d'être informé de l'opinion du Gouvernement Français au sujet de l'administration de la Roumélie Orientale en attendant l'organisation définitive de cette province.

D'après notre manière de voir, la question de savoir si l'administration civile de la Roumélie doit être remise dès à présent à l'autorité Ottomane n'a pas été décidée expressément par le Traité de Berlin. L'Article XVIII stipule que la Commission Européenne chargée d'élaborer, de concert avec la Porte, l'organisation de la province doit avoir terminé cette tâche dans un délai de trois mois, mais il ne dit pas en termes formels à quel moment l'administration Ottomane succédera à l'administration Russe. L'Article suivant a établi, il est vrai, catégoriquement que l'administration des finances serait confiée à la Commission Européenne agissant d'accord avec la Porte, et une résolution, prise le 18 de ce mois, par la Commission elle-même, assure à celle-ci un pouvoir souverain en matière financière; mais la distinction faite ainsi pour les finances contribue encore à rendre plus indécise l'interprétation de l'Article XVIII en ce qui concerne les autres parties de l'administration civile.

Il nous paraît qu'il y a lieu de considérer d'ailleurs la difficulté pratique que pourrait présenter la juxtaposition dans la même province d'autorités Ottomanes dont les attributions resteraient nécessairement indéterminées jusqu'à nouvel ordre et d'autorités militaires Russes qui chercheraient à retenir tous les pouvoirs dont elles sont aujourd'hui dépositaires en fait.

Dans ces conditions, le parti le plus sage serait, à notre avis, de hâter autant que possible l'élaboration des règlements qui doivent déterminer les pouvoirs du Gouvernement Turc et des différentes autorités placées sous ses ordres. La Porte Ottomane semble, pour sa part, vouloir presser, dans cet ordre d'idées, l'exécution des clauses du Traité de Berlin. Le concours qu'elle peut prêter aux travaux de la Commission Européenne est d'une grande importance, et nous croyons désirable que les membres de cette Commission se préoccupent également d'accomplir avec diligence le mandat qui leur a été confié. C'est dans ce sens que sont conçues les instructions préparées

pour le Commissaire Français et, si le Gouvernement Anglais était disposé à transmettre des directions analogues à ses Représentants, nous serions heureux de nous trouver d'accord avec lui à cet égard.

En effet, les obstacles matériels que rencontrerait aujourd'hui, par exemple, le recrutement de la gendarmerie et de la milice locales, seraient manifestement plus faciles à écarter le jour où l'organisation de ces corps serait définitivement arrêtée et où il ne s'agirait plus que de mettre en vigueur, pour leur fonctionnement, de même que pour l'installation des différentes autorités civiles, des règlements sanctionnés par les Commissaires de toutes les Puissances.

Nous pensons qu'il serait préférable aussi d'attendre pour la nomination du Gouverneur de la province que les pouvoirs de ce haut fonctionnaire aient été régulièrement définis. Nous n'avons, d'ailleurs, aucune objection à élever contre la désignation de Rustem Pacha dont il est question pour ce poste.

Nous nous féliciterions que les considérations qui précèdent pussent rencontrer l'assentiment du Gouvernement de la Reine. En tout cas, nous nous prêterons volontiers à un échange d'idées avec lui sur les affaires de la Roumélie Orientale et nous désirons vivement concourir ensemble à faciliter l'entente entre tous les membres de la Commission sur des points aussi importants pour le prompt et heureux achèvement des travaux d'organization qui lui sont confiés.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) WADDINGTON.

No. 654.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 26.)

(No. 852. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, October 25, 1878.*

M. WADDINGTON'S note, a copy of which is inclosed in my immediately preceding despatch No. 851 of to-day, appears to contain his Excellency's answer not only to the written note which I addressed to him on the 10th of this month respecting the administration of Eastern Roumelia, but also to the verbal communication on the same subject which I made to him yesterday, as I had the honour to report to your Lordship in my despatch No. 847 of that day.

Your Lordship will, in fact, observe that in his note M. Waddington expresses his opinion about the appointment of Rustem Pasha, who was mentioned in the verbal communication of yesterday, but not in the written note of the 10th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 655.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received October 26.)

My Lord, *Admiralty, October 25, 1878.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of the Marquis of Salisbury, an extract from a letter from the Commander of the "Falcon" reporting proceedings at Rodosto.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 655.

Commander Clark to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.)
(Extract.) *"Falcon," at Gallipoli, October 7, 1878.*

MR. DUSSI informed me that the Greeks, of whom he formerly made complaints as having insulted and threatened him, have left Rodosto, and that the present Governor is a good man and friendly with him.

No. 656.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received October 26.)

Admiralty, October 25, 1878.

My Lord,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of the Marquis of Salisbury, extracts from a letter which has been received from Vice-Admiral Sir G. P. Hornby, dated at Artaki, 15th instant, reporting on affairs at Sulina and the proceedings of Her Majesty's ship "Flamingo" at Volo in connection with piracy, which was reported to exist in that neighbourhood.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 656.

Vice-Admiral Sir G. P. Hornby to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Artaki, October 15, 1878.

(Extract.)

THE Commander of the "Cockatrice" reports from Sulina, under date 30th September, that the Russians remain in possession of the port, that their guns have been removed from the earthworks and remain on the river bank apparently for shipment; but that in other respects the works have not been dismantled.

In consequence of a telegram from Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, informing me, on the representation of Consul Blunt, that piratical boats were in the Gulf of Volo, I dispatched the "Flamingo" there from the Pireus to make inquiries.

Commander Hall reports that there is a large force of Turkish and other foreign vessels of war at Volo, and that he could hear nothing of any pirates being in the neighbourhood. The circumstances that gave rise to the Consular Report appears to have been the robbery, some months since, of one Greek caique by another, and in communicating Commander Hall's Report to his Excellency I have submitted that it would be as well in future if Consular officers made somewhat sure before they repeated rumours of piracy which were inexact, as the movements of Her Majesty's ships with dispatch in consequence of such reports occasion considerable expense and inconvenience.

No. 657.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 26.)

(No. 948.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October 25, 1878.*

VICE-CONSUL at Philippopolis telegraphs to-day:—

"I am confidentially informed that a telegram from Kustendil was received to-day by the Bulgarian Archbishop of Philippopolis, announcing that insurgents have been successful in two encounters with Turks near the frontier; date and name of place are not given. Bulgarians are reported from a different source to have captured Krana, in Rasloubt—names doubtful—district. I hear that agents are actively canvassing in Bulgaria for subscriptions to insurgent fund."

No. 658.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 26.)

(No. 949.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October 25, 1878.*

COUNT ZICHY informs me that he will communicate to-morrow morning to Grand Vizier a telegram from Count Andrassy, to the effect that if Servia or Montenegro attempt to make any "encroachments" on Turkey in violation of the Treaty of Berlin, Austria will aid her in defending herself; and that Austria has no intention of occupying Novi-Bazar, but cannot make a declaration to that effect, as it would be

contrary to the Treaty. If, Count Andrassy adds, Turkey can defend by herself the strip of land between Servia and Montenegro against those States, so much the better; if she cannot, Austria will come to her assistance.

I shall endeavour to persuade Grand Vizier to take advantage of this overture on the part of Austria to come, if possible, to an understanding with her.

No. 659.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 26, 1878, 3·50 P.M.*

IN reply to your telegram No. 986, the question as to Khotour is being examined.

No. 660.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 26, 1878, 4·20 P.M.*

TELEGRAM on reforms submitted to the Cabinet.

I reserve detailed observations till I see despatch; but, as a whole, it appears to Her Majesty's Government that the arrangement is adequate, and that the conclusion of it reflects great credit on your skill and energy.

No. 661.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 26, 1878, 5 P.M.*

HER Majesty's Government have considered with great care reports which reach them from several quarters of Russian proceedings in Balkan Peninsula which show scanty respect for the Treaty, and are probably intended to intimidate the Sultan. The Cabinet desire that the Sultan should be confidentially informed that the Queen is fully resolved to insist on evacuation of Balkan Peninsula by Russia next May, in accordance with Treaty, and, if force is necessary, will co-operate with Sultan for that purpose. We must not by this be understood to express any doubt that other Signatories of the Treaty will take a similar view.

No. 662.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 26, 1878, 5·5 P.M.*

INFORM Sultan that Ameer having received a Russian Mission with great honour, has written a letter to Viceroy, which all Indian authorities interpret as a refusal offensively expressed to receive a British Mission. Her Majesty's Government earnestly anxious to avoid a conflict, have directed a second demand to be addressed to him, hoping that he will recede before it is too late from his hostile position. If he refuses again we shall with great regret be compelled to take military measures. This message from Her Majesty's Government should be communicated to the Sultan personally; being addressed to him as mark of respect, not as Ruler of Turkey but as Caliph, because Afghan nation is Mussulman.

No. 663.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 26, 1878, 11·45 P.M.*

IN communicating my telegram of this day's date as to evacuation of Russians in May, you will assume, and let Sultan see that you assume, previous performance by Turkey of all requirements of Treaty of Berlin.

No. 664.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1318.) [B.B.]

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 26, 1878.*

I REQUEST that your Excellency will state to Safvet Pasha that Her Majesty's Government have heard with very great satisfaction of the services which have been rendered by Mr. Reade, Her Majesty's Consul at Rustchuk, to the Turkish refugees, and that they have gladly availed themselves of the opportunity thus afforded to convey to that officer their approval of his proceedings, as reported to them in his Highness's note to your Excellency, of which a copy was inclosed with your despatch No. 1275 of the 17th instant.

I inclose herewith, under flying seal, a despatch which I have addressed to Mr. Reade in the above sense, which I request that your Excellency will cause to be forwarded to its destination.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 665.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1320.) [B.B.]

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 26, 1878.*

I RECEIVED yesterday your Excellency's telegram No. 944 of the 24th instant, conveying the substance of the reply of the Turkish Government to the proposals contained in my despatch No. 928 of the 8th August last in regard to the reforms to be introduced in the Sultan's Asiatic dominions.

The Cabinet was sitting at the time, and your message was submitted to them by me.

I reserve any detailed observations upon the counter-proposals of the Porte until I receive your despatch and have the opportunity of examining them in their full text.

Her Majesty's Government, however, are disposed to believe that the arrangement as a whole, if properly carried into effect, will be adequate, and they consider that the conclusion of it reflects great credit upon the skill and energy with which you have conducted the negotiation of the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 666.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1326. Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 26, 1878.*

HER Majesty's Government have received from several quarters reports of proceedings by the Russian authorities in the Balkan Peninsula which give evidence of little respect for the Treaty of Berlin, and which are probably intended to intimidate the Sultan and his Ministers.

These reports have received the serious consideration of the Cabinet, and they

desire that the Sultan should be confidentially informed that the Queen and Her Majesty's advisers are fully determined to insist upon the evacuation of the Balkan Peninsula by the Russian forces in May next, as stipulated in the Treaty of Berlin. If it should be found necessary to employ force in order to secure the execution of the Treaty in this respect, Her Majesty will be prepared to co-operate with the Sultan for that purpose.

I have authorized your Excellency by telegraph to make the above communication to the Sultan, but you should bear in mind that, in taking this step, Her Majesty's Government are not to be understood as expressing any doubt that a similar view will be taken by the Governments of other Powers parties to the Treaty.

You should also let it be clearly seen by the Sultan that the previous performance by Turkey of all the requirements of the Treaty is assumed as a necessary condition for the support and co-operation of this country.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 667.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Gould.[a]

(No. 36.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 26, 1878.*

I HAVE to acquaint you that I have been informed by the German Ambassador at this Court that the Imperial Government have nominated Major von Alten, of the Grand General Staff, to take part in the Commission for tracing the frontier of Servia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 668.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 27.)

(No. 950.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 26, 1878.*

IT would seem as if Russia desires that a weak frontier line should divide Bulgaria from Eastern Roumelia, and a strong defensive one the latter province from Macedonia and Thrace.

I have written to your Lordship officially on this subject, pointing out danger of such an arrangement.

French member of Bulgarian Delimitation Commission showed me to-day a despatch from French Minister for Foreign Affairs, who takes my view, and states that the southern frontier of Southern Roumelia should be an administrative, and not a military one.

I believe that the Military Commission has been entirely a Russian suggestion, not warranted by Treaty of Berlin. I should be glad to have your Lordship's views on the subject, which appears to me of considerable importance.

No. 669.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 27.)

(No. 951.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 26, 1878.*

GRAND VIZIER informs me that he has made a representation in writing to the Russian Ambassador with reference to insurrectionary movement now being fomented in Macedonia.

The news received by the Porte from that province appears to be bad.

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[a] A similar despatch was addressed to Major Wilson.

No. 670.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 27.)

(No. 952.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 26, 1878.*

FOLLOWING telegram has been received from Consul Blunt, dated Larissa, 26th October :—

"According to accounts received yesterday evening by Commander-in-chief here from civil and military authorities at Salonica, the aspect of affairs in Bulgarian districts of Macedonia is very serious. Formidable bands of Bulgarian insurgents from Bulgaria proper are concentrating at Petrick, in the province of Servo, and the Bulgarian peasantry in that and contiguous districts are joining the insurgents.

"Four companies of Turkish troops have been surrounded and annihilated by insurgents, and the Turkish authorities of Salonica are very anxious, and urge dispatch of strong reinforcements.

"Shevket Pasha, who commands at Salonica, will proceed the day after to-morrow to the scene of disturbance. Six more battalions arrived at Volo from Constantinople the 23rd instant."

No. 671.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 27.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, October 27, 1878.*

MAJOR WILSON states in his despatch that Servians have thrown up field-works near Saulice (fifteen miles beyond frontier), that they generally expect rising in Bosnia this winter, that their advance, almost within striking distance of the Salonica Railway, may be possibly connected with the expectation of Bosnian movement, and that they occupy in Bulgaria Zaribrod and Irn.

Commission will at once proceed to demarcation of frontier near Vranja.

No. 672.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 27.)

(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, October 20, 1878.*

ARRIVED here this morning. All the Commissioners will be here on Monday.

No. 673.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 28.)

(No. 856. Most Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October 16, 1878.*

FROM private reports which I have received, as also from frequent allusions of the Russian press, I have reason to suspect that Russia is aiming at a future alliance with Turkey, the object of which is evidently directed against England and Austria.

This aim is more openly alluded to by the Russian press since the failure of Count Schouvaloff's late visit to Vienna, and the rejection by Count Andrassy of his proposals which unmistakeably tended to a partition of European Turkey.

The firmness of Count Andrassy in resisting these seductive proposals of Russia, and the expression of his firm determination to remain strictly within the limits of the Treaty of Berlin, have thus defeated and rendered hopeless the Russian schemes. Russia, therefore, finding it no longer possible to circumvent Austria, is apparently now using all her efforts to seduce and beguile Turkey, with a view to assuming a future protectorate over that country. I cannot pretend to say how far these surmises may be correct. They are at all events entertained, and are somewhat justified by

outward appearances as well as by the tone of those organs of the Russian press which are known to have communication with the Imperial Government.

To further her projects, Russia is apparently endeavouring to sow discord between Austria and Turkey, and to bring about an open rupture between those Powers. She is suspected of having instigated the refusal of the Porte to sign the proposed Convention with Austria, and of having suggested the Turkish Circular despatch on the cruelties committed by the Austrian troops in Bosnia.

It is also suspected that Russia will endeavour in the Definitive Treaty she is now negotiating with Turkey to fetter completely the future liberty of action of the Porte and to bring Turkey under her sole influence. On the other hand, I am informed that Prince Bismarck, foreseeing probably the dangers to Europe as well as to Austria of an alliance between Russia and Turkey, is endeavouring to resuscitate the alliance of the three Emperors for the maintenance of the general peace.

In the absence of Prince Gortchakow and the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, I am only able to report to your Lordship the information I receive from unofficial sources, and the impressions conveyed by the tone of the Russian press without being able to confirm them as authentic facts.

Your Lordship's superior judgment and the official reports addressed from other quarters will enable your Lordship to estimate the opinions conveyed in this despatch at their just value.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 674.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 28.)

(No. 859. [B.B.]
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October 17, 1878.*

ON the receipt of your Lordship's telegrams of the 16th instant, I requested Mr. Plunkett to call at the Imperial Foreign Office, and to communicate their substance to M. Melnikoff for transmission to Livadia.

I have the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith copies of the Memoranda with which I furnished Mr. Plunkett, as also copies of his letters reporting his interview with M. Melnikoff.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 674.

Memorandum read to M. Melnikoff.

HER Majesty's Ambassador is instructed by the Marquis of Salisbury to point out to the Government of His Imperial Majesty, that under the XIXth Article of the Treaty of Berlin the financial administration of Eastern Roumelia is to be exercised by the European Commission in accord with the Sublime Porte, and to express the earnest hope of Her Majesty's Government that instructions will be sent to Prince Dondoukoff to take no steps inconsistent with that stipulation. Her Majesty's Government have been informed that Prince Dondoukoff has been within the last few days farming the tithes, and moving large sums of money from Philippopolis to Sofia, which are evidently measures incompatible with the functions assigned by the Treaty of Berlin to the Commission.

St. Petersburgh, October 17, 1878.

Inclosure 2 in No. 674.

Memorandum read to M. Melnikoff.

HER Majesty's Ambassador is instructed by the Marquis of Salisbury to inform the Government of His Imperial Majesty that English officers who were sent to examine the state of affairs report that the country evacuated by the Russian troops is quiet, and that the precautionary measures taken by the Turkish Government to preserve order are now efficient.

He is further instructed to express to the Russian Government the hope of Her Majesty's Government that the evacuation may now proceed, the cause for the delay of it having been removed.

St. Petersburgh, October $\frac{5}{17}$, 1878.

Inclosure 3 in No. 674.

Mr. Plunkett to Lord A. Loftus.

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October* 17, 1878.

IN compliance with your Excellency's instructions I read, this afternoon, to M. de Melnikoff the Memorandum with which you had furnished me, stating that "you had been instructed by the Marquis of Salisbury to inform the Government of His Imperial Majesty that English officers who were sent to examine the state of affairs report that the country evacuated by the Russian troops is quiet, and that the precautionary measures taken by the Turkish Government to preserve order are now efficient; that your Excellency had been further instructed to express to the Russian Government the hope of Her Majesty's Government that the evacuation may now proceed, the cause for the delay of it having been removed."

M. Melnikoff promised to telegraph the substance of this communication to M. de Giers, and to send me the reply when it reached him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure 4 in No. 674.

Mr. Plunkett to Lord A. Loftus.

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October* 17, 1878.

IN compliance with your Excellency's instructions I called this afternoon at the Foreign Department, and read to M. Melnikoff the Memorandum with which you had furnished me, informing him "that you had been instructed by the Marquis of Salisbury to point out to the Government of His Imperial Majesty that under the XIXth Article of the Treaty of Berlin the financial administration of Eastern Roumelia is to be exercised by the European Commission in accord with the Sublime Porte, and to express the earnest hope of Her Majesty's Government that instructions will be sent to Prince Dondoukoff to take no steps inconsistent with that stipulation.

"Her Majesty's Government have been informed that Prince Dondoukoff has been within the last few days farming the tithes, and moving large sums of money from Philippopolis to Sofia, which are evidently measures incompatible with the functions assigned by the Treaty of Berlin to the Commission."

M. Melnikoff said he would at once telegraph this communication to M. de Giers, but, before doing so, he must ask me to explain more clearly what was the exact meaning which your Excellency attached to the words "which are evidently measures incompatible with the functions assigned by the Treaty of Berlin to the Commission."

I said that as the XIXth Article of the Treaty of Berlin had handed over the administration of the finances of Eastern Roumelia to the European Commission who was to act in accord with the Sublime Porte, such acts as the farming of tithes or the removal of money to Philippopolis were of the competency of the Commission, and that Her Majesty's Government considered that the Russian Commissary, in taking such measures as these, was trespassing on the functions reserved by Treaty to the Commission. It was therefore hoped that the Imperial Government would instruct Prince Dondoukoff to take no steps inconsistent with the Treaty.

M. Melnikoff said he had no cognizance of the acts referred to, but he would communicate to me, as soon as it arrived, whatever answer he might receive from M. de Giers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 675.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 28.)

(No. 868.) [B.B.]

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October* 20, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 859 of the 17th instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship copies of two telegrams forwarded by M. de Giers in reply to the communications which, by your Lordship's instructions, I had requested the Imperial Foreign Office to transmit by telegraph to his Excellency on the 17th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 675.

M. Melnikoff to Mr. Plunkett.

Monsieur, *Le* 19 *Octobre*, 1878.

JE n'ai pas manqué de transmettre immédiatement à Livadia par télégraphe les communications que vous m'avez faites hier d'ordre de son Excellence Lord Augustus Loftus.

Je viens de recevoir aujourd'hui de M. le Gérant du Ministère des Affaires Etrangères les réponses suivantes à ces communications:—

1. Reçu télégramme d'hier. Nous nous conformons strictement aux Articles XVIII et XIX du Traité de Berlin et ne saurions admettre que notre Commissaire s'en écarte; lui demanderons éclaircissements sur question soulevée par l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre.

2. Reçu votre second télégramme d'hier: se trouvant sur les lieux nos autorités militaires sont le plus à même de juger de la situation des localités que nous abandonnons; d'ailleurs elles en constatent l'état de concert avec les autorités Turques et cela en vue de rétablir l'ordre et la sécurité qui nous mettraient dans la possibilité de continuer le mouvement de retraite de nos troupes. Si les rapports des officiers Anglais étaient exacts nous ne verrions pas l'émigration en masses d'une population terrorisée; ayant le soin de la recueillir et de la caser nous ne pouvons nous faire aucune illusion à ce sujet.

(Signé) MELNIKOFF.

No. 676.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 28.)

(No. 878.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October* 22, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the official telegram addressed by the Russian Consul at Ismaila to the Imperial Ministry for Foreign Affairs, dated 11th October, on the arrival of the Commission for the retrocession of Bessarabia, in virtue of Article XLV of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 676.

Extract from the "Agence Russe."

TÉLÉGRAMME du Consul Russe à Ismaïla, en date du 29 Septembre / 11 Octobre, 1878, au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, sur la rétrocession de la Bessarabie, en vertu de section 45 du Traité de Berlin :—

"Toute la population d'Ismaïla est venue au débarcadère à la rencontre de la Commission Impériale et lui fit un accueil enthousiaste. Le maire de la ville présenta au Président le pain et le sel en terminant un discours patriotique par ces paroles :—'Voilà, Excellence, en peu de mots, ce que la population de la ville offre à la Russie, en votre personne.' Le discours du maire a été accueilli avec de longs cris de 'Hurrah !'"

No. 677.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 28.)

(No. 880.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October 22, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report that M. Davidhoff has been appointed Russian Consul-General and Diplomatic Agent in Bulgaria; Prince Tzoretelow, Consul-General at Roumelia; M. Obermüller, Consul-General at Erzeroum; M. Moussouri, Consul at Smyrna; M. Lajovski, Consul in Candia; and M. Timofeiew, Consul at Trebizond.

It is stated that the Imperial Government purpose to establish new Russian Consular posts at Mossul, Van, Diarbeker, and Kossiar, near Smyrna. It is further reported that the Imperial Government intend establishing a Russian Consulate at Bombay.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 678.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 28.)

(No. 882.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October 22, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith in translation by Mr. Michell a list extracted from the "Novoe Vremia" of the Russian vessels of war in the Baltic, the Black Sea, and Danube, the Caspian, the Sea of Aral, and the North Pacific Station; and also a list of officers and men in the Russian navy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 678.

LIST of Russian Fleet, as published by the "Novoe Vremia" Newspaper of the 5th October, 1877 (non-official organ).

BALTIC FLEET.—ARMOUR-CLADS.

1 Ship	Peter the Great	2-turretted ship	4 12-in. guns; 6 4-prs. rifled; 2 Engstrom's.
7 Frigates	Sevastopol	Broadside battery frigate	32 guns, various kinds.
	Petropavlovsk	"	28 "
	Kniaz Pajarski	"	18 "
	Admiral Greig	3-turretted frigate	3 11-in. rifled guns; 4 4-prs. rifled.
	Admiral Lazareff	"	Largest calibre 8 inches.
	Admiral Tchigacheff	2-turretted frigate	
	Admiral Spiridoff	"	
3 Batteries	Pervenetz	Battery	23 guns.
	Netron Meula	"	31 "
	Kremi	"	22 "
3 Floating Batteries	Smerch	2-turretted floating battery	4 steel-rifled guns. Largest calibre 9 in.
	Charodeika	"	6 " "
	Russalka	"	6 " "
10 Monitors	Uragan	1 turretted monitor	3 guns (2 guns of 9 in).
	Typhon	"	4 "
	Strelitz	"	4 "
	Vdinovog	"	4 "
	Bronenost	"	4 "
	Lavina	"	4 "
	Lava	"	4 "
	Perun	"	4 "
	Vesuvius	"	4 "
	Koldun	"	4 "
4 Steam Frigates	Minin	Steam frigate	Largest calibre 8 in. rifled.
	Herzog Edinburgski	"	
	General Admiral	"	
	Svetlana	"	
7 Corvettes	Voevoda	Corvette	Largest calibre 8 in.; they also carry several guns of the Gatling type.
	Gridin	"	
	Bayan	"	
	Bogatyr	"	
	Varlag	"	
	Vitiaz	"	
	Askold	"	
12 Clippers	Gaidamak	Clipper.	
	Vsadnik	"	
	Jemchug	"	
	Almaz	"	
	Yakhout	"	
	Izumrud	"	
	Kreiser	"	
	Djigit	"	
	Narzdnik	"	In course of construction.
	Razbonik	"	
	Strelok	"	
	Plastun	"	
4 Paddle Frigates	Olaf	Paddle frigate.	
	Smely	"	
	Rurik	"	
	Khrabry	"	
9 Steamers	Vladimir	Steamer.	Cruisers of Volunteer Fleet.
	Volga	"	
	Hunger	"	
	Europe	"	
	Asia	"	
	Africa	"	
	Russia	"	
	Moscow	"	
	Petersburg	"	

Gun-boats	15	River steamers and other craft	60
Torpedo-boats	100	Corvette, sailing	1
Schooners	8	Floating docks	9

Cruizing Abroad.

Clippers	Kreiser, Gardamak, Vsadnik.	Corvettes	Bayan, Djigit, Askold.
Steamer	Taman.	Steam Frigate	Kniaz Pajarski.

BLACK SEA FLEET.

2 Monitors	Nikopol	Monitor	2 guns.
	Sistova	"	
2 Popofkas	Novgorod	Popofka	6 " (2 11 in).
	Vice-Admiral Popoff ..	"	2 12 in. guns; 8 4-prs. rifled; 1 Gatling.
4 Corvettes	Sokol	Corvette	Largest calibre 8 in.
	Volu	"	
	Lwhsa	"	
	Pamiat Merkuria ..	"	

Torpedo-boats	11	Corvette, sailing	1
Schooners	14	Floating dock	1
River steamers and other craft	21		

DANUBE FLOTILLA.

Steamers	Bratsvitz. Athanova. Gorni Studen. Bogat. Pandalin.	Barges .. .. Zimnitza. Petroshani.

SIBERIAN FLOTILLA. (North Pacific Station.)

	"Abrek," clipper.		
Schooners	4	Steamers and other craft	17

CASPIAN FLOTILLA.

Gunboats	3	Steamers and other craft	10

ARAL FLOTILLA.

Steamers and other craft	6

List of Officers and Men in Russian Fleet.

Admirals	122	Sailors attached to Baltic Fleet	19,316
Superior Officers, Commanders and Lieutenants ..	805	" Black Sea Fleet	5,382
Junior Officers	2,260	" Caspian Flotilla	1,416
Midshipmen and Pilots	157	" Aral Flotilla	345
Surgeons, &c.	300	" Siberian Flotilla	2,457
Paymasters, Clerks, &c.	592		

No. 679.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 28.)

(No. 884.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October* 22, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship the following two Memoranda by Mr. Michell:—

1. A Memorandum giving the new scheme for the organization of reserves of the Russian army.

2. On the manufacture at Witten in Germany for the Russian Government of sixty Palmkrantz (Swedish) mitrailleuses.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 679.

Memorandum on New Scheme for the Organization of Reserves of the Russian Army.

AN Imperial Ukas, promulgated in the Official Gazette of the $\frac{8}{20}$th September last, decrees the organization of 96 battalions of reserves, each battalion being formed of 5 companies of 1,000 men during time of peace. Each of these battalions when mobilized for active service will form—

I. (*a.*) 1 regiment of reserves of 4 battalions of 4 companies, or 4,000 men per battalion;

(*b.*) 1 battalion of reserves constituted out of the 5th Company, 1,000 men strong;

(*c.*) Out of each of the 82 battalions of reserves 2 complementary battalions will be formed, in all 164 battalions, *i.e.*, 1 battalion for each regiment of the line.*

In time of war each regiment of the line will therefore have one battalion of reserve.

No order for the organization of the reserves of the Guards and Grenadier regiments has as yet been issued.

The 96 regiments of reserve (see *a*) will, during a time of war, form 24 divisions of reserves. Of these the commanding officers with their staffs have already been nominated and their names inscribed on the reserve rolls at the War Office. They will, however, only be gazetted to their commands on the mobilization of their divisions and regiments.

The 96 battalions of reserves formed out of the 5th company (see *b*) of each battalion will, in the event of mobilization, be employed for duty in garrison towns and fortresses. In case of necessity they will be formed into divisions of reserves and incorporated with the army in the field.

During a time of peace the 82 battalions (see *c*) destined to form complementary battalions will have a staff of instructors, consisting of 4 subaltern officers and about 60 drill sergeants and corporals per battalion in excess of the normal complement of officers and men. In the event of mobilization these instructors will be employed in drilling young recruits and militia men of the first call, both for the active and reserve forces.

II. In furtherance of the formation of the new battalions of reserve the following troops have been disbanded and will be incorporated with the reserves:—

Twenty-three battalions for garrisoning fortresses;† 54 battalions of local provincial garrison troops; 19 battalions of old reserves created during the last war with Turkey.

III. The increase to the military strength of Russia by this new scheme of reserve organization is represented by—

(*a.*) 392,000 men in 24 divisions of infantry reserves.

(*b.*) 96,000 men.

In consequence, however, of the disbanding of the 23 fortress battalions and of the local provincial troops, the above numerical increase will be reduced by about 150,000 men. The absolute increase to the Russian army under the new scheme of reserves will be about 260,000 combatants.

All the local or provisional troops have not been disbanded under the new organization, but it is intended to convert those that still exist into reserve forces by degrees.

A new scheme for the organization of reserves of artillery has also been drawn up. It has not, however, yet been finally sanctioned by the Emperor.

The idea of such organization consists in forming, analogous to the infantry, 24 or perhaps 30 brigades of artillery reserve. Each brigade will consist of 6 batteries. The number of horsed guns will, in time of peace, be under the required complement. When mobolized all the guns will be horsed.

(Signed) JOHN MICHELL,
Her Majesty's Consul.

St. Petersburgh, October 22, 1878.

Inclosure 2 in No. 679.

Memorandum respecting the Manufacture of Palmkrantz Mitrailleuses at Witten for Russian Government.

I LEARN from a trustworthy source that sixty Palmkrantz mitrailleuses are now being manufactured at Witten in Germany for the Russian Government. The calibre of the barrels is the same as that of the Berdan rifle.

* The Infantry force of the Russian army is constituted as follows:—164 regiments of the Line, 12 regiments of the Guard; 16 regiments of Grenadiers.

† The total number of these battalions was twenty-five. One has been left intact at Kertch, and one at Alexandropole.

In addition to the above, thirty-five mitrailleuses of greater calibre, viz., 1 inch, have already been delivered at St. Petersburgh.

At a recent trial made at Witten with the Palmkrantz mitrailleuse, steel, instead of the ordinary leaden bullets, were used. At a distance of 800 fathoms a steel plate quarter-inch in thickness is said to have been pierced by the steel bullets.

(Signed) JOHN MICHELL,
Her Majesty's Consul.

St. Petersburgh, October 22, 1878.

No. 680.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 28.)

(No. 505.)
My Lord, *Athens, October* 19, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the debate in the Greek Chamber of Deputies, which was commenced on the 14th instant, and has been continued from day to day, terminated last night.

A vote was taken on the motion of M. Rieaki, as member of the Opposition, to the effect that "the Chamber, not accepting the statement of the Government with respect to the Reserves, and the demand of an extraordinary credit, passes to the order of the day," and resulted in a majority in favour of the Government of three votes, 69 members voting for and 72 against the adoption of M. Rieaki's motion.

A motion proposed by M. Mavromichalis, that "the Chamber, approving the policy followed by the Government up to this time, passes to the order of the day," was then put to the vote: 135 Deputies voted, 69 for and 63 against the proposal, 3 members refusing to vote. The Government have thus obtained an approval of their conduct by the Chamber by a majority of 6 votes.

M. Commoundouros considers the small majority he has obtained as sufficiently satisfactory to enable him to continue in office.

I reserve, for another despatch, to send to your Lordship some details of the debate just concluded, on which the fate of the present Ministry was considered to depend.

The present Government probably owes more to the indisposition of the Opposition to take office at this moment than to the approval by the Chamber, and the country of the policy they have hitherto followed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 681.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 28.)

(No. 1202.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October* 20, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of despatch from Acting Consul Calvert, which entirely confirms the reports that I have received from various independent sources of the good conduct of the Turkish authorities and regular troops who have been sent to occupy the country evacuated by the Russian forces, and of the protection that they have afforded to the Christian population.

There can, I think, be now little doubt that the statements of the Russian authorities as to the outrages and massacres committed by the Mussulmans on the Christian population are unfounded, and that they have been made with the object of inducing Europe to consent to the continued occupation of Adrianople, and of the adjoining territory by Russia, and that the emigration of the Christians, of which the Russians complained, was designedly brought about by the Russians themselves.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 681.

Acting Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Adrianople, October* 17, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that two respectable "Tchorbadjis" of Malgara, a Greek and an Armenian, who have arrived here, report that that district has enjoyed even exceptional tranquillity since it was evacuated by the Russians. They further state that the Russian sub-Governor of Malgara, so far from discountenancing or endeavouring to check the efforts made by Hadji Exindar to create a disturbance (as reported in my despatch of the 15th instant), openly joined that person in exciting the inhabitants to resist the entry of the Turkish troops in the first place, and afterwards in trying to raise a panic by assuring them that a general massacre would ensue on the withdrawal of the Russians. Although these last-mentioned efforts met with a certain degree of success, as already reported, the public mind is now perfectly reassured.

All the Greek bad characters (there are few Bulgarians in the district) have taken good care to retreat with the Russians, carrying their plunder along with them; and to this circumstance in a great measure the above informants attribute the perfect order which now prevails. Two villages alone have been abandoned, namely, Kahadji, a mixed village whose Greek inhabitants feared to be called to account for having seized the crops belonging to their fugitive Turkish neighbours, and Isgar, a purely Greek village, for no better reason than that it is situated in a part of the district almost exclusively inhabited by Turks.

These fears, however, have proved to be quite unfounded, since, as the same informants affirm, both the Mussulman inhabitants of the district and the Turkish troops now occupying it have behaved admirably. This, although many of the Turkish fugitives have returned to their homes in the wake of the latter, and although those fugitives had suffered severely. No less than sixteen Mussulman villages were burnt in the district of Malgara during the disorders committed by Greek and Bulgarian bands in May and June last. These villages were chiefly inhabited by Tartar immigrants, who, by their thrifty and industrious habits, had attained a remarkably prosperous and flourishing condition.

The following instructive information regarding the occurrences which attended the transfer of authority at Keshan has been given to me by a respectable Greek merchant from that place. Here again the language of the sub-Governor, though far more guarded than that of his colleague at Malgara, was distinctly calculated to create apprehension, if not a panic; and he used every argument to bring about an exodus of the Greek population, adding to those of a nature to work on their fears the promise to all emigrants of free grants of land and other material advantages in the north.

The notables of the Greek community on their part exerted themselves to counteract the effects of those arguments on the minds of the ignorant classes of the population, and they succeeded in dissuading all but the really compromised section of the Greek inhabitants from quitting their homes. The further proceedings of the sub-Governor were little calculated to obviate the result which he professed to apprehend, for he and the Russian garrison, suddenly and without warning, left Keshan early on the morning of the 14th instant. The Turkish and the Greek communities thereupon cordially co-operated to meet the emergency. They immediately telegraphed to Gallipoli for troops, and meanwhile formed a special police corps which patrolled the town and rural districts. The Mussulman clergy and notables of the town assembled their co-religionists at the mosque and earnestly exhorted them to keep the peace.

These combined efforts proved so effectual that no disorder occurred in the town, and only during the ensuing night did four or five isolated cases of robbery and assassination occur in the villages, committed in all cases by known bad Turkish characters. The Turkish troops, by a forced march of ten hours, reached Keshan the same night, and during the week which has elapsed since their arrival only two other cases of assassination, of the same type as those just mentioned, have occurred. Squads of soldiers have been told off among the villages, and their conduct and the exertions of the Kaimakam who accompanied them to preserve tranquillity have, my informant states, been beyond all praise.

In the meanwhile, the Russian sub-Governor, it appears, after leaving Keshan, fell in on the road with a Greek who had been robbed and beaten by a Turk. He

made much of this circumstance, and took the Greek into his own carriage. Two days after his withdrawal he reappeared at Keshan, at the head of a detachment of 120 Cossacks. His language and manner clearly showed the expectation—it would hardly be too much, perhaps, to say the hope—that the dark forebodings he had expressed were in some degree realized. He excitedly urged the Greek notables to draw up instantly a Report of all the disorders that had occurred since the departure of the Russian troops. The Greeks calmly replied that, thanks to the presence and the admirable conduct of the Turkish troops and civil authorities, the district enjoyed perfect tranquillity; and in this attitude the Greeks persisted, although the sub-Governor was most pressing in his demand for a paper in the sense he desired.

It appears that although the exodus from the above districts, and those of Khaïreboli, Demotica, Ouzoun-Keufry, &c., has been collectively considerable, the bulk of it is composed of the Bulgarian element, which in those parts form a small minority of the Christian population. The movement has been most general along the line of country between Constantinople and this place, and there is reason to believe that a large proportion even of the latest emigrants is of a category which has good reasons for self-expatriation. The fugitives belong, for the most part, to the peasant class, and the excess of the personal effects above the quantity usually owned by people of that class, which accompanies the movement, is one among other indications in support of that belief. In one particular, however, all the latter emigrants who have been questioned as to their motives agree, namely, that they have been induced to leave their homes chiefly through the liberal promises and tempting prospects held out to them by the Russian authorities.

The recent short visit of Prince Lobanoff to Adrianople, which is understood to have been connected with this exodus and the pretended causes of it, was accomplished so quietly that, although announced to take place by the Constantinople newspapers, it was not until after his Excellency's departure that it was generally known in the place that he had been here. Nothing has yet transpired as to the results of the Prince's conference with General Todleben.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

No. 682.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 28.)

(No. 205. Political.)
Bucharest, October 22, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 186 of the 5th instant, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that the Russian pontoon bridge on the Danube between Rustchuk and Giurgevo has been removed, and that thus the grievance complained of by Messrs. Carnegie in my despatch above referred to has disappeared.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 683.

Consul Sanderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 28.)

(No. 58. Political.)
Galatz, October 22, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that the districts of Bessarabia, lately forming part of Roumania, appear to have been finally handed over to the Russian authorities on Monday, the 21st instant.

Preparations are being made at Ibraila for a bridge of boats across the Danube, preparatory to the crossing of Roumanian troops for the occupation of the Dobrudscha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PERCY SANDERSON.

No. 684.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 28.)

(No. 854.)
Paris, October 26, 1878.

My Lord,

M. CALLIMAKI CATARGI came to see me this afternoon, and begged me to intreat Her Majesty's Government to send without delay to the British member of the Commission which is to mark out the frontier of the Dobrudscha instructions to support the claims of Roumania to the full extent of territory assigned to her by the Treaty of Berlin.

He said that in order to render the grant of additional territory made by the Treaty nugatory, the Russians pretended that the point of departure should be placed at a considerable distance from Silistria, and that the line of frontier, instead of being drawn in a straight line to Mangalia, should describe a sort of triangle, having its apex near Kuzgun.

M. Callimaki Catargi, at my request, wrote a brief Memorandum of the substance of what is asked of Her Majesty's Government, and I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of that Memorandum.

He said that Roumania was assured of the support of Austria, and that he was about to ask that of France.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 684.

Mémorandum.

LE Gouvernement Roumain prie le Gouvernement Anglais de vouloir bien donner des instructions pressantes au Représentant Anglais dans la Commission de Délimitation de la Dobroudja, afin que la ligne droite de Silistrie à Mangalia et la possibilité d'avoir un pont près de Silistrie soient assurées à la Roumanie.

Les travaux de cette Commission commencent le 2 Novembre prochain.

No. 685.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 28.)

(No. 857.)
Paris, October 27, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 854 of yesterday, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that M. Waddington told me last evening that he had promised M. Callimaki Catargi the support of the French Commissioner in obtaining for Roumania the full extent of territory in the Dobrudscha to which she is entitled by the Treaty of Berlin.

M. Waddington proceeded to state to me that the instructions he had given to the French Commissioner were to endeavour to fix the starting point as near as possible to Silistria, in order to give the Roumanians facilities for making their bridge over the Danube.

He added that, of course, the frontier line could not in practice run perfectly straight between the starting-point and Mangalia; but that the French Commissioner was instructed to insist that any loss of territory which might be sustained by Roumania in consequence of parts of the line being deflected towards the north, should be compensated for by an equivalent amount of territory to be obtained by deflections to the south of other parts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 686.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 28.)

(No. 858.) *Paris, October 26, 1878.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 844, 845, and 846, all of the 24th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that M. Waddington told me yesterday that M. Callimaki Catargi had again pressed him to recognize solemnly the independence of Roumania, and in particular to accredit an Envoy Extraordinary to Prince Charles.

M. Waddington added that he had again declined to take any further steps in this direction until some distinct progress had been made towards giving practical effect to the stipulation of the Treaty of Berlin in favour of religious equality.

M. Callimaki Catargi had, on his part, repeated the argument that the recognition of independence was advisable in order to give the Ministry strength to carry the question in the Constituent Assembly; but M. Waddington had (he told me) answered that he thought, on the contrary, that the Ministry would derive much more strength from being able to show that the recognition of the independence of the country depended upon the actual establishment of religious equality.

M. Waddington went on to observe that it appeared that some time must elapse before the Constituent Assembly could be convoked, and that then the Bill would have to be read three times, with an interval of a fortnight between each reading. He had, he said, stated distinctly to M. Callimaki Catargi that he could not hold out any hope that the independence of Roumania would be formally recognized by France until the Bill had at least passed the first reading.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 687.

Aborigines Protection Society, 17, King William Street, London, October 26, 1878.

My Lord Marquis,

I BEG respectfully to forward to your Lordship a Memorial on the subject of the kidnapping of Bulgarian children, which emanates from the Committees of the Aborigines Protection and Anti-Slavery Societies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. W. CHESSON, *Secretary.*

Inclosure in No. 687.

To the Most Honourable the Marquis of Salisbury, K.G., Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

My Lord Marquis,

WE, the Undersigned, having cause to believe that, during the war lately waged in the Christian provinces of Turkey—

(1.) Some thousands of Christian children have fallen into the possession of Circassians, Bashi-Bazouks, professional kidnappers, or other unscrupulous persons who have sold them or reduced them into slavery:

(2.) That some children who have not been thus bought and sold have yet become inmates of Turkish houses, from which position they are not likely to be able to free themselves, or to be recovered by their friends in the ordinary course of Turkish justice:

(3.) That at the present time large numbers of such Christian children are homeless in the streets, or wandering amongst the Turkish refugees:

(4.) That the task of searching for and restoring to their parents and friends a large number of such children has voluntarily been undertaken and accomplished by a few private individuals, notwithstanding considerable pecuniary loss, and in the face of great personal risk and danger from the violent resistance of the Turks;

do therefore respectfully request your Lordship—

1. To empower Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople to afford official protection and help to such persons in their noble endeavours to deliver these children from slavery; and, further,

2. To direct the British Ambassador to obtain from the Sultan a special Firman, giving full powers to agents (of whose prudence, integrity, and good faith ample security can be given) to demand and recover from the harems, and from their Mahommedan owners or protectors, with a view to their restoration, where practicable, to their friends, the persons of all such (once) Christian children who have been reduced to a state of slavery, dependence, destitution or orphanage, during the late war; and

3. In view of effectually advancing the end proposed, to direct that strict inquiries be at once made by all and each of Her Majesty's Consuls throughout Turkey, Asia Minor, Arabia, Egypt, Syria, Crete, all other Turkish islands in the Levant, and also in Cyprus, as to the whereabouts, condition, and detention of all such children of Christian parentage so detained or destitute; and also as to the practices and haunts of those who have captured them, and who, it is to be feared, make the buying, selling, and keeping of children a slave trade business.

The Undersigned would feel very grateful to your Lordship if you felt yourself able to accede to these requests.

We have, &c.

Signed on behalf of the Aborigines Protection and Anti-Slavery Societies,

EDWARD B. EASTWICK, *Chairman of Meeting.*
EDMUND STURGE, } *Hon. Secretaries of the Anti-Slavery*
JOSEPH COWPER, } *Society.*
F. W. CHESSON, *Secretary of the Aborigines Protection Society.*

17, *King William Street, October 26, 1878.*

No. 688.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 28.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, October 26, 1878.*

WITH reference to my telegram of 9th instant, I learn that the Prince of Montenegro refuses to permit return of the refugees, because they resisted the Montenegrin invasion, and because stipulated cessions of territory have not been yet effected.

All North Albanians are properly embodied auxiliary soldiers, and the refugees fought as such, by and under Turkish command.

If the Montenegrins are allowed to keep refugees out of their homes, and confiscate their [group wrong], these people may be driven by despair to acts of aggression.

The return of the prisoners of war has been suspended.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 689.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 28, 1878, 3·30 P.M.*

M.Y. protest against Prince Dondoukoff's language to Assistant Commissioner was sent to St. Petersburgh on 15th October.

No answer has yet been received or announced by telegram. I suppose, therefore, that none is likely to be sent.

No. 690.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Corbett.

(Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 28, 1878, 3·50 p.m.

INFORM "excellent authority" that we hear Greek peasants are being induced to join Bulgarians in Macedonian revolt. If that revolt succeeds it can only result in transferring Macedonia for ever from Greek race to Slav. Greek peasantry should be warned.

No. 691.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Corbett.

(No. 210. Secret.) *Foreign Office, October* 28, 1878.

Sir,

INFORMATION has reached Her Majesty's Government that efforts are being made to induce the Greek peasants to take part in the revolt which is being fomented by the Bulgarian bands in Macedonia.

I have to instruct you to bring this fact to the knowledge of the "excellent authority," and to represent that the only result which can follow from the success of this revolt must be to transfer Macedonia in perpetuity from the Greek to the Slav race, and that it would be right that the Greek peasantry should be warned of the consequences of their participation in it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 692.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 77.) *Foreign Office, October* 28, 1878.

Sir,

ON the 15th instant I addressed a despatch to Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh, directing him to protest against the language which Prince Dondoukoff is reported to have used when speaking to Lord Donoughmore as to the binding character of the engagements entered into by the Powers parties to the Treaty of Berlin.

Up to the present date no reply on the part of the Russian Government has reached this Department by telegraph or otherwise; and it is, therefore, open to doubt whether any notice will be taken of the communication.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 693.

Sir J. Paunceforte to Sir A. Kemball.

(Confidential.) *Foreign Office, October* 28, 1878.

Sir,

YOU are aware that it is stipulated by Article LX of the Treaty of Berlin that the Sublime Porte cedes to Persia the town and territory of Khotour, as fixed by the Mixed Anglo-Russian Commission for the delimitation of the frontiers of Turkey and of Persia.

The Grand Vizier has recently informed Sir H. Layard that the Porte is not acquainted with the line of frontier laid down by the Commission, and has requested to be enlightened upon this point.

I am directed, therefore, by Lord Salisbury to state to you that his Lordship would be glad to avail himself of your intimate experience of all the bearings of this question, and to request that you will favour him with your opinion, at your early convenience, with regard to the facts of the case, in order that he may be enabled to reply to Safvet Pasha's inquiry.

For your convenience in the consideration of this question, I am to transmit to you herewith the papers,* which it is requested may be returned to the Foreign Office at the same time as your reply.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 694.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Bey, October 29.)

M. le Chargé d'Affaires, *Constantinople, le* 16 *Octobre*, 1878.

D'APRES les informations qui nous sont parvenues tout récemment, le Consul de Grèce à Larisse se livre dans le pays à des manœuvres tendant à désaffectionner la population Musulmane de l'autorité légitime de la Sublime Porte en essayant de lui persuader que l'annexion à la Grèce de ces contrées lui assurerait non-seulement un traitement égal à celui des Chrétiens, mais encore des priviléges spéciaux. Ce Consul, en rendant compte à son Gouvernement des motifs de ces manœuvres, exprime l'espoir de préparer ainsi pour l'avenir les habitants Musulmans de nos provinces à donner leurs suffrages à un changement de domination.

Des menées de cette nature seraient déjà considérées comme un attentat à la sûreté de l'Etat si elles étaient l'œuvre d'une simple particulier; mais elles empruntent aux fonctions de leur auteur un caractère plus coupable encore et constituent une atteinte au droit public Européen. En permettant de pareilles entreprises contre l'autorité de la Sublime Porte, le Gouvernement Hellénique méconnait gravement ses devoirs internationaux envers un Etat avec lequel il est en paix.

Je vous prie, M. le Chargé d'Affaires, de signaler ces faits au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique et de recevoir, &c.

(Signé) SAFVET.

No. 695.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 29.)

(No. 955.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October* 28, 1878.

GRAND VIZIER tells me that the Porte will put into execution revenue reform in the province of Aïdin (Smyrna) as soon as you have approved the proposal on this subject in its answer about reforms.

Sultan has named a financial Commission, of which Intfiredin [? Khairedin] Pasha is President, and English and French Commanders are to be Vice-Presidents.

No. 696.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 29.)

(No. 958.?)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October* 28, 1878.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 951, note of Porte to Russian Ambassador states that insurrectionary movements caused by Bulgarian bands in Macedonia give great gravity to the present circumstances; that a town and six villages have been destroyed by a band of 2,000 Bulgarians, and other places threatened; that on trustworthy information it is affirmed that this band and others ready to invade Macedonia have been formed, armed, and disciplined to south of Bulgaria, in country occupied by the Russian troops and administered by Russian authorities; that the facility with which this has been done will be considered by his Excellency as very grave matter affecting [?] or that of the local authorities who must have acted in opposition to the intentions of the Imperial Government, which the Porte is convinced will not tolerate that Bulgaria or any other territory occupied by Russian troops should be the

* Treaty of Erzeroum, May 1st, 1847; Memorandum by Sir E. Hertslet, January 10, 1873; Memorandum by Sir A. Kemball, April 2, 1875; Abstract of ditto; Sir A. Kemball to Mr. Layard, March 14; Memorandum by Sir E. Hertslet, October 23; Sir H. Layard, No. 1269, October 17, 1878.

centre of intrigue and of insurrectionary preparations against the Sultan's authority, and that [?] certain that energetic measures will be immediately taken to repress them.

Ambassador's reply [calls] in question Porte's statement, promises inquiry, and states that such movements will not be permitted by Russian authorities. Porte may probably address a Circular on this subject to Powers.

No. 697.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 29.)

(No. 259.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 29, 1878.*

PERCEIVING from Sir H. Layard's despatches on the 21st that the Russian Ambassador had again told Grand Vizier that the country outside Eastern Roumelia would not be evacuated until after the conclusion of a definite peace, I inquired yesterday whether Count Zichy had made any report to the same effect.

On being told that he had not, I requested M. Orczy to inquire of Count Zichy whether he had heard of such language being held by the Russian Ambassador, and he promised at once to make inquiry.

No. 698.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 29, 1878, 4 P.M.*

WITH reference to the telegram from Her Majesty's Consul at Scutari of the 26th instant, press the Sultan to execute Treaty by evacuating places to be ceded to Montenegro.

By this long delay he has given Russia a pretext which she has not been slow to use; and if he delays much longer the whole border will be in a state of anarchy.

No. 699.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 29, 1878, 4·15 P.M.*

I HAVE received your telegram of the 26th instant, No. 950.

I quite agree that southern frontier of Eastern Roumelia should be administrative, not military.

Appointing a military surveyor does not bind us to any opinion as to the character of the frontier.

No. 700.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 29, 1878, 11·15 P.M.*

INFORM M. Waddington that we are disposed to think that in view of the general interests of Europe it is not expedient to defer for a long period the recognition of Roumanian independence, otherwise they might be driven into the arms of Russia at a critical time.

I gather from Roumanian Agent that Legislature has formally pledged itself to accept conditions of Berlin; and I suppose a diplomatic assurance in the same sense could be obtained. Owing to the peculiarities of Roumanian constitution it appears that more formal consent cannot be given till the end of next year.

Ask him what he thinks.

No. 701.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 559.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 29, 1878.*

COUNT BEUST called upon me to-day and stated that a proposal which the Porte had made, and which I had forwarded to Count Beyns, for substituting some cession to Montenegro on the Herzegovina side for that in the neighbourhood of Podgoritza, to which the Albanians had so great an objection, was one which, in the view of Austria, could not properly be admitted, partly on the ground of a reluctance to disturb the Treaty of Berlin, partly because it was only upon the southern frontier that Montenegro could obtain that accession of culturable land which was essential to the development of the Principality and the civilization of its inhabitants, and partly because any considerable admission of Montenegro to a share in the territory of the Herzegovina would expose the strip of Dalmatian sea-coast to the very danger which it had been the object of Austria to frustrate by accepting the duty of occupying the two provinces.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 702.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1328.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 29, 1878.*

YOUR Excellency has been informed by Her Majesty's Consul at Scutari in his telegram of the 26th instant of the refusal of the Prince of Montenegro to allow the refugees to return to their homes, under the plea that they resisted the Montenegrin invasion, and also that the Turks have not yet effected the cessions of territory to Montenegro as stipulated.

I have this day sent you instructions by telegraph to impress upon the Sultan the urgent necessity that he should forthwith carry out his Treaty obligations and evacuate the places which he is bound to surrender to Montenegro.

You should point out to His Majesty that Russia has not been slow to avail herself of this long delay for her own purposes, and that if the Turkish Government procrastinates much longer, the whole country bordering on Montenegro will be in a state of anarchy.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 703.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1330.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 29, 1878.*

I QUITE concur in the views contained in your Excellency's telegram of the 26th instant, that the frontier line which separates Bulgaria from Eastern Roumelia should be decided on administrative and not on military considerations.

In selecting a military man as their Commissioner for the survey of this frontier, Her Majesty's Government do not consider that they have given any engagement as to the character of the line to be traced.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 704.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 718.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, October 29, 1878.*

I HAVE to request your Excellency to inform the Minister for Foreign Affairs that Her Majesty's Government are disposed to think that, in view of the general interest of Europe, it is not expedient to defer the recognition of Roumanian independence for a long period, and that lengthened delay might have the effect of driving Roumania into the arms of Russia at a critical moment.

I gather from the Roumanian Agent that the Legislature of Roumania has formally pledged itself to accept the conditions imposed by the Treaty of Berlin; and I suppose that it might be possible for Her Majesty's Government to obtain a diplomatic assurance in the same sense. It appears, however, that the more formal consent of the Legislature to accept these conditions cannot, owing to certain peculiarities in the Roumanian Constitution, be given until the end of next year.

In making this communication to M. Waddington, you will invite his Excellency to inform you of his views on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 705.

Consul Henderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 30.)

(No. 30. Consular.)
My Lord, *Aleppo, October 11, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a despatch, with its inclosure, which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, with reference to the present state of this city.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 705.

Consul Henderson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Aleppo, October 11, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that the present state of Aleppo and its environs is such as to cause grave doubts as to the possibility of preserving public tranquillity much longer.

Since Kiamil Pasha assumed the Government, it appears, from statistics prepared by one of my colleagues, that seventy-three murders have been committed in the town alone, and in no single case has an example been made of the murderers. In the majority of cases, or where the victim has been a Christian, no attempt has been made to arrest the murderers; and in the few instances where the guilty persons have been captured, they have either remained in prison for a few weeks until they bought their liberty, or been liberated at the intercession of influential friends, members of the higher Tribunals, to whom the Pasha, compromised by his complicity with them in discreditable transactions, could not give a refusal. There are not a great number of British residents here, and complaints ought to be few, but so far from this being the case, scarcely a day passes without some complaint of ill-usage being made to me, and in only one case has the Pasha punished the aggressors, viz., when a crowd of Mussulmans tried to drag the Chancelier of this Consulate off his horse, and beat his servant so unmercifully that he was carried home insensible.

The difficulty of a foreigner under the protection of his Consulate obtaining redress for the most aggravated assault is extreme, that of a native Christian or Mussulman, without powerful friends, hopeless; and the people, despairing of any change for the better, or of any protection from the Government, no longer view with passive indifference a state of affairs which has become unbearable, and a revolver and dagger are now the constant companions of every one who ventures out of doors or beyond the walls of the town.

In several instances, when the murders have caused unusual notoriety, I have tried to induce the Pasha to act with energy and arrest the murderers, but unsuccessfully.

I inclose herewith a copy and translation of one of the most recent petitions which have been presented to me. After verifying the statements contained in it, I asked the Pasha to arrest the murderers, giving him their names, but he has, as usual, done nothing.

Last night, about a mile from the town, four respectable merchants—one a Christian and a member of the Tribunal of Commerce—were surrounded by sixteen Circassians, and robbed of 95*l.* and four valuable mares. They were stripped of everything except their under-shirts and drawers, and, bound hand and foot, they were left to their fate. Fortunately, they were discovered some hours afterwards, and brought into town.

My French colleague and myself have not failed to remonstrate with the Pasha, as this state of affairs cannot be attributed to anything but the Vali's culpable negligence of his duties, to his utter indifference to everything by which he can gain no pecuniary advantage for himself, and his subserviency to the party by whose influence he retains his post.

I have been unwilling to trouble your Excellency with frequent complaints about Kiamil Pasha for several reasons, and I only do so now as matters have come to such a pass that serious consequences are to be feared if the Porte does not take steps, and that without loss of time, to remedy the existing evils.

The Administration is in a state of complete anarchy: the heads of the different Departments disputing and quarrelling with each other as to their share of the spoils like wolves over a carcase—the Pasha with the Defterdar, the Defterdar with the Mufti, the Mufti with the different members of the Medjliss—each one for himself, and all taking advantage of the disorganization at the capital to reap a golden harvest for themselves—the motto of the Vali being, "Après moi le déluge."

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 705.

Petition of Relatives of Anton Cazaz addressed to Consul Henderson.

(Translation from the Arabic.)
Sir, *Aleppo, October 2, 1878.*

WE take the liberty of bringing to your knowledge a barbaric act, which cost us the life of Anton, son of Joseph Cazaz, a Greek Roman Catholic. It is this. While at his brother Michel's house on Sunday evening, the 29th September last, in company with several other persons, Christians and Mahommedans, and while the guests were amusing themselves quietly, a knock was heard at the street door, and Ibrahim Azar and his son George went to answer thereto.

As soon as they opened they saw El Shibly bin Ezzo, Mohamed Miree, Hassan bin Eid, Mesto bin Elhillee, and Ahmet bin Adley, five Mussulmans, who angrily and haughtily expressed their determination to enter the house. The two Christians who opened the door for them tried all they could to dissuade them by flattery and prayers, but all in vain, for in answer to these prayers they forced their way into the house, and the above-named Ahmed bin Adley, who was leading the others, to do successfully, gave a blow to George Azar with a weapon called "sahrieh," which he was armed with, and wounded him very severely in the right arm, then rushing inside the house he gave a blow to Anton in the back, who fell dead without saying a word.

The others seeing this atrocious barbarity ran for their lives, and the assassins took the opportunity to lay hands on whatever effects they could and carried them away.

Now, we bring this petition to you, praying your clemency and the clemency of your Government, represented here in your person, to take pity on the family of this murdered innocent person, as it has unfortunately by this unprovoked, barbaric atrocity, lost its head.

We feel sure that you and the Government who sent you will gladly and heartily help so badly-treated and injured people as those who are rendered widow, orphans,

and brotherless; and who very humbly, sorrowfully bend down to kiss your feet and implore your assistance.

(Signed) KHATOON, *Widow of murdered man.*
MICHEL, *Son.*
GEORGE, *Brother.*
MICHEL, *ditto.*

No. 706.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 30.)

(No. 141. Political.)

My Lord, *Trebizond, October 16, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of a letter which Mr. Parmelee has received from Mr. Barnum, the American missionary at Van, and which he has kindly communicated to me.

This letter, together with those from Mr. Cole, at Erzeroum, and Mr. Knapp, at Bitlis, inclosed in my despatch No. 139 of the 12th instant, give a fair idea of the condition of the country, and show that the towns themselves enjoy tranquillity, but that the Kurds, who in some places are fighting also among themselves, cause the country to be in a state of insecurity in some parts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure in No. 706.

Extract of Letter from Mr. Barnum.

MR. BARNUM, missionary at Van, writes from that town under date of the 22nd September, 1878:—

"Last month I returned from a visit to Bitlis with my family, which took us three and a-half weeks to perform. The region through which we passed was very quiet then, though nomad Kurds have committed some depredations since. The sheep belonging to Aghtamar Monastery they have stolen, and also taken animals from several villages. Choice oxen, &c., they separated from a village only a half hour from Van gardens, and succeeded in making off with them. The more distant regions to the south and south-east of the city are, perhaps, more oppressed, though not in every section. In Moks, west of south, there has been so much stealing that some of the Christians have come to this section with 'bag and baggage,' saying they care not to live there longer. From another region a man has just come who told me all is quiet.

"The Kurds are doing a considerable fighting among themselves, and keep all neighbouring villages in a turmoil. Between here and the Persian boundary they are more or less on the rampage, and Dr. ——— has therefore postponed his preferred visit to Oorroomiah till November.

"In the city business is brisker than last year, and some of the burnt shops are being rebuilt. Several buildings are also going up, and masons and carpenters are busy. Still, there is dissatisfaction among the Armenians, and they incline to curse England as the cause of the disappointment of their high hopes of autonomy. So confident had they grown that they were to enjoy this boon, that they were counting upon the immigration of Armenians from Russia and other portions of Turkey. Now I hear from men working under my windows, 'There is nothing left for us but to emigrate.'

"Taxes are to be collected at once, tithes and military tax included, it is said; and they take this as indicating that the old régime is to be continued. An English 'Mecmoor' is to come here, officials say, but the Armenians say that the coming of one man is nonsense. Unless he brings some thousands of their soldiers he had better not come at all. This is the way the community talk; perhaps the more sensible among them talk differently."

No. 707.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 30.)

(No. 142. Political.)

My Lord, *Trebizond, October 17, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 128 and 131 of the 28th and 30th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith a second petition from the representatives of the inhabitants of Hodoortchoor, in which they complain of the conduct of the Ottoman troops sent to protect them against fresh aggressions on the part of the Mussulmans, and to arrest those who had been guilty of the former outrages.

The conduct, as represented by the petitioners, of the officers entrusted with the Mission, and that of their men, is so unqualifiable as to be hardly credible.

However, making due allowance for usual exaggeration, it is difficult to believe that the petitioners should have dared to mention facts, such as the thrashing of thirteen priests, and the binding of Kapril to a tree for two days, without some ground for these assertions.

I have spoken with Youssouf Pasha, who deprecates as likely to lead to complications the intervention of the military in matters which should be left entirely to the police; but in the present case he is powerless, the district of Ispir being under the jurisdiction of Erzeroum, and the military authorities having already taken the affair in hand.

Youssouf Pasha pointed out to me that he had managed, at a time when he had a very reduced number of policemen at his disposal, to apprehend the parties guilty of the robbery of the Armenian church at Mohirgul (despatch No. 57 of the 8th May last), in revenge for which apprehension the present outrage was perpetrated at Hodoortchoor.

He blamed the Armenians for not having come forward to have the prisoners tried, though he had often invited them to do so within the four months of their detention. This was due to the plundered parties being Hassonistes, and not wishing to appear in the Tribunal under the auspices of the anti-Hassoniste ecclesiastical authority, which is the one recognized by the Porte. The consequence was that no plaintiffs coming forward here, and Mohirgul being under the jurisdiction of Erzeroum, the Tribunal decided that the prisoners should be sent to that town for trial.

However, Youssouf Pasha is not satisfied with this decision, being convinced that on their way to Erzeroum the prisoners will be rescued by their relatives, and that their release will be the signal of numberless outrages which it will be difficult to repress.

He asked me, in order to avoid these regrettable complications, to induce the interested Armenians to appear as plaintiffs, in the hope that he may obtain the reversal of the judgment. They acknowledge their negligence in the matter, although they had already protested against the said sentence when it became known to them.

They have now presented a petition to Youssouf Pasha, and begged me besides to obtain that the last outrage, of which they have been the victims, should likewise be tried here.

They seem to have more confidence in the Ottoman authorities at Trebizond than in those at Erzeroum, there being protectors of the brigands at Ispir among the Government functionaries whose influence may extend to Erzeroum. But their principal motive is the presence at Trebizond of Consuls who can, if required, exercise their influence in favour of justice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure in No. 707.

The Armenians of Khodourtchour to Vice-Consul Biliotti.

M. le Consul, *Trébizonde, le 16 Octobre, 1878.*

PAR cette seconde pétition nous, représentants des habitants de Khodourtchour, nous nous adressons à votre Gouvernement juste et magnanime et demandons pitié et protection.

Déjà par notre première pétition du 28 Septembre dernier, nous vous avons exposé

les malheurs et les souffrances inouïs que nous, Chrétiens de Khodourtchour, endurons depuis quelques années de la part des Musulmans qui nous entourent et qui nous ont enlevé dernièrement encore 150 têtes de bétail.

Enfin, nos pleurs et nos plaintes sont parvenus jusqu'à Constantinople, et le Grand Vizir s'est empressé de donner des ordres télégraphiques au Gouverneur d'Erzéroum d'expédier des soldats à Khodourtchour pour arrêter les brigands, les punir, et leur faire payer les dommages occasionnés.

Les lettres que nous venons de recevoir de Khodourtchour nous disent que ces soldats ont été expédiés en effet, mais qu'ils sont allés s'installer dans le village Ture de Khnoud. Ils ont même arrêté trois des coupables, les nommés Hussein Aga, fils de Chérif Aga, Tchéghénoglou Mevloud, et Kataloglou Hussein.

Le Commandant de la troupe Ottomane, probablement gagné par eux, envoya un Capitaine avec une trentaine de soldats au village de Khantatzar, où réside Don Garabed Tchakhalian, le Curé-en-chef du district, en l'engageant à se rendre à Khnoud pour assister au procès.

Le Curé, craignant d'aller à Khnoud, fit le récit détaillé des méfaits au Commandant en lui disant aussi qu'ayant déjà adressé à cet effet des pétitions et envoyé des délégués à Trébizonde et à Erzéroum, il lui semblait inutile de faire le procès à Khnoud; il n'avait qu'à arrêter les brigands et à les conduire à Erzéroum ou de préférence à Trébizonde. Le Curé avait ses raisons pour agir ainsi; d'après une lettre écrite par l'un de ses intimes amis de Khnoud, les Tures auraient eu l'intention d'obtenir par force du Curé une lettre d'acquittement, de le faire réconcilier avec les brigands, et en cas de refus de l'assassiner. Don Garabed s'étant assuré de la vérité de cette assertion, se décida à partir nuitamment pour Trébizonde, mais arrivé à Hamsheen il retourna à Khodourtchour de peur de courir d'autres risques.

Le lendemain les soldats commencèrent à nous tourmenter avec le consentement de leur Chef; ils exigèrent 74,000 piastres pour leurs frais depuis cinq à six jours; au lieu de s'occuper de leur mission ils se firent les instruments d'une vengeance particulière; ils attachèrent un certain Kapriel Damoumian, sur la demande de son cousin protégé d'un Ture influent, à un arbre et le laissèrent deux jours sans nourriture.

Afin de se venger de l'absence du Curé ils lièrent les mains de treize prêtres, leur administrèrent des coups de bâton, les conduisirent par force vers Khnoud, et après les avoir dépouillés d'une somme de 2,500 piastres qu'ils possédaient, ils les laissèrent libres.

Sans entrer dans d'autres détails nous venons vous prier de faire en sorte que nous obtenions justice pour les persécutions dont nous sommes les victimes, et que nous puissions à l'avenir vivre en paix avec nos familles sans être à la merci des attaques des Musulmans qui vivent dans notre voisinage.

Nous, &c.
(Suivent 13 signatures.)

No. 708.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 30.)

(No. 143. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, October* 19, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of a despatch addressed to me by Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople on the 12th instant, and copy of my reply thereto, relating to the outrages committed by a band of Mussulmans on their own co-religionists, and upon the Armenians of Hodoortchoor, as reported in my despatches Nos. 128 and 129 of the 28th ultimo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure 1 in No. 708.

Sir A. H. Layard to Vice-Consul Biliotti.

Therapia, October 12, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE communicated to Safvet Pasha the substance of your despatches to me of the 28th ultimo relating to outrages committed by a band of Mussulmans on their own co-religionists and upon the Armenians of Hodoortchoor.

His Highness thanked me for the communication, and begged me to request you to continue to report to me fully on all such occurrences, promising at the same time to send immediate and peremptory orders to the authorities at Trebizond to take measures to arrest and punish those who had been guilty of those outrages, and to prevent a repetition of them.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 708.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Trebizond, October* 19, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch of the 12th instant, and to inform you that Safvet Pasha has in fact sent orders to the authorities at Trebizond to take measures to arrest and punish those who had been guilty of the outrages reported in my despatches Nos. 145 and 146, and to prevent the repetition of them.

I happened three days since to call on Youssouf Pasha, who had just received the telegram on the subject. He was very vexed for the reproaches addressed to him by the Porte, and which he said he did not think he deserved.

I had on former occasions spoken to Him of the cases referred to in my above-mentioned despatches, and did not conceal from him that I had reported them, though I had not cast on him the blame of what had taken place.

In fact, I stated in my previous despatches that although Hodoortchoor was not within the jurisdiction of Youssouf Pasha, he had given orders to the Governor of Rizeh to protect the Christians of that region, and to make energetic researches for the culprits who were supposed to belong to that district.

With respect to the murder at Youmrah, he assured me again, as he had done formerly, that no complaint had been lodged on the subject. But I cannot help remarking that if such cases are not brought to the knowledge of the Governors-General by the police, even when no plaintiff appears, it only proves the deficiency of that body.

As for the case of the Mudir expelled from the village of Charli, near Platana, Youssouf Pasha explained to me that he had in fact arrived one morning stating that he had been forcibly embarked by the inhabitants.

However, on inquiry it was found out that this same man, formerly the servant of a cadi, and a very bad character, had been two years ago again in the necessity to run away from Hoppa, where he was Mudir. Dismissed from the service on that occasion, he went to Constantinople and obtained his present appointment at Charli, which ended by his having fled a second time to avoid the ire which his bad conduct had created in the community confided to his administration. Youssouf Pasha added that he could not be held responsible for the misconduct of individuals who were appointed against his will, and whom he was under the necessity to tolerate.

While I was in conversation with the Governor-General, the Mal Bey (colonel of police) came in to inform him that if the 200 zaptiehs who had been removed here from Batoum on the cession of that district to Russia were not disbanded the Porte would perhaps not allow to charge in the public accounts the salaries to be paid henceforth to them, as the number of 1,000 zaptiehs fixed for this province by the regulations was now complete.

I suggested to the Pasha that in a province of 670 geographical square miles and nearly 1,000,000 inhabitants, 1,000 zaptiehs, who were far from sufficient in usual times, being less so under the present circumstances, he would, in my opinion, be justified in assuming the responsibility of keeping them until he received orders to the contrary from the Porte.

I trust that your Excellency will not disapprove my having ventured to make this suggestion, which, I believe, Youssouf Pasha will follow.

I shall not fail to continue to report to your Excellency fully on all outrages that may come to my knowledge, not only from the Province of Trebizond, but, as I have done hitherto, also from the neighbouring vilayets.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 709.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 30.)

(No. 144. Political.)

My Lord, *Trebizond, October 19, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report the arrival here yesterday of the Ottoman Commission for the delimitation of the new frontier between Russia and Turkey.

The President of this Commission is Shehad Bey, Colonel of the Staff, who, together with Vekil Effendi, delegated by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Major Halet Bey, and Captain Ali Effendi, will proceed to Batoum.

Daghis Effendi, delegated by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Under-President of the Commission, will go to Erzeroum, and from thence to Kars, in company with Staff Lieutenant-Colonel Chefket Bey, Major Isak Bey, and another Major, all belonging to the 4th Army Corps. The mission of Daghis Effendi is to hand over Khotoor, and consequently to delimitate the frontier between Turkey and Persia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 710.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 30.)

(No. 108. Political.) [B.B.]

My Lord, *Canea, Crete, October 21, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose for your Lordship's information copies of three despatches which I have addressed to his Excellency Sir Austen Layard, viz. (1), acknowledging the receipt of his Excellency's telegram approving my proceedings and my recognition of the services rendered me by Mr. Vice-Consul Mozzo; (2), reporting the intention of Ghazi Moukhtar Pasha to urge the appointment of a Mussulman Governor to Crete, and my opinion that his Excellency greatly exaggerates the discontent felt by the Mussulmans; and (3), giving the additions made by the Christian delegates at the moment of signing the emendations to the Organic Law, with some remarks on some articles therein.

It will be unnecessary for me further to bring to your Lordship's notice the services of Mr. Vice-Consul Mozzo, having inclosed herewith a copy of my despatch to the Ambassador on the subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 1 in No. 710.

Consul Sandwith to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Canea, Crete, October 19, 1878.*

I HAD yesterday the honour to receive your Excellency's telegram of the previous day, in which you convey to me your entire approval of my proceedings, which have resulted in the settlement come to with the Cretan delegates, and which your Excellency assures me both His Majesty the Sultan and the Grand Vizier have promised to sanction.

I beg to express to your Excellency my deep sense of the honour you have done me in so completely approving my proceedings, which certainly would not have had so satisfactory a result were it not for the unwavering support which your Excellency has never ceased to give me throughout these negotiations.

While acknowledging my obligations for the support thus given, I am anxious not to pass over in silence the services rendered me by Mr. Vice-Consul Mozzo. It has been my good fortune to have had the benefit of his advice on several important occasions—an advice which owed its value both to his intimate acquaintance with the character of the Cretans, and to the confidence the latter repose in his honesty of purpose. That gentleman has often remarked to me that it has been his privilege to have co-operated towards the attainment of an end which he could equally reconcile

with his duty as a servant of the British Government and with his feelings as a patriot.

I beg, therefore, formally to express my acknowledgment of Mr. Mozzo's most efficient services.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 710.

Consul Sandwith to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Canea, Crete, October 20, 1878.*

DIRECTLY after posting my last despatch to your Excellency I had the honour to send the following telegram:—

"Following sent to Foreign Office:

"'*October 15.*

"'This morning the delegates signed the instrument according them concessions. It is being conveyed by special steamer to be ratified by the Porte.'"

The same evening your Excellency's telegram reached me:—

"*Therapia, October 15, 1·40 P.M.*

"Have the modifications proposed by Moukhtar Pasha been accepted by the General Assembly? If not, try and persuade them to do so. Let me know how matters stand now."

To this telegram the previous one was a sufficient answer.

On the following day I called upon his Excellency the Commissioner, and endeavoured to learn from him his opinion as to the effect the modifications just made in the Organic Law were likely to have on the Mussulman population. I was the more anxious to know his Excellency's views, because I had learned that some Boys of this town had been telegraphing to their co-religionists in Candia and Rethymo, inviting them to send delegates here to protest to the Commissioner against the granting of the concessions to the Christians. The Mussulmans of Candia did not respond to this appeal, but those of Rethymo sent two Deputies, whom, with four leading men of Canea, I found closeted with Ghazi Moukhtar Pasha when I called upon him. His Excellency told me he feared very serious consequences would result from the great extension given to the Organic Law, and that the only way to mitigate its evil effects was the appointment of a Mussulman Governor-General for the first five years. He declared that his co-religionists were desperate at the prospect before them, seeing that practically they had no longer any voice in the General Assembly, and that many had expressed their intention of quitting the country rather than accept the position thus assigned to them. Already, he said, there had been a considerable emigration during the past five or six months, and one landed proprietor was on the point of selling his property for one-fourth of its value. The nomination of a Mussulman Vali he looked on as almost a necessity.

It is evident that certain leading Mussulmans of Canea, seeing the acceptance of the modified Organic Law all but inevitable, have been practising on the fears of the Commissioner, in the hope thereby of securing the appointment of a Governor-General belonging to their own creed. From another source I learn that they have been throwing out dark hints as to the existence of a plot for repudiating the authority of the Porte, and even of taking summary vengeance on the more obnoxious among the Christians, and that Ahmed Moukhtar Pasha attached a certain importance to these threats, and has asked for authority from the Porte to put down any incipient attempt at rebellion.

I never concealed from your Excellency my opinion that the extension of privileges to the Christians would excite considerable discontent among the Mahommedans of the towns, who would thereby be robbed of the monopoly of power hitherto enjoyed by them. But, as far as I can form an opinion, the majority of them accept the situation, however unwillingly, and have no idea of abandoning a country where their wealth will always secure for them a certain consideration. Nobody seems to be aware of the voluntary expatriation, to any appreciable extent, of Mussulman families during the past five or six months, as alleged by the Commissioner, and if some have

left they are certainly fewer in number than the Christians who have sought an asylum in Greece. It is not unlikely, indeed, that a few of the more bigoted Mussulmans who battened on the abuses of a corrupt administration, and have no landed interest in the island, will be tempted to quit the country, which will be none the worse for their departure. But it is not probable that the landed proprietors and the local merchants, who are men of more substance than the Christians, will throw away the advantages of their position in order to seek their fortune in strange lands, and their continued presence here will keep in the island the humbler classes of their own faith who depend upon them for employment. As for the more sinister threats referred to above, I think they can be safely disregarded so long as the Mussulman peasantry continue to reside in the interior, for the latter are entirely at the mercy of the Christians, who would certainly visit upon them any wrongs inflicted on their brethren in the towns.

Ghazi Moukhtar Pasha is undoubtedly right in supposing that the nomination of a Mahommedan Governor would contribute greatly to soothe the wounded feelings of the Mahommedans, but in face of the engagements entered into with the Christians, who regarded the appointment of a Christian Governor as a *sine quâ non*, without which they would never have accepted the terms offered them, it is plainly out of the question to consent to the nomination of a Mussulman Vali.

Finding that the Commissioner had made strong representations to the Porte on these points, I considered it advisable that your Excellency should be provided with an independent opinion, and I therefore dispatched the following morning (the 17th instant) this telegram:—

"The Commissioner has represented to the Porte that the concessions made to the Christians have roused the indignation of the Mussulman population, and he has consequently recommended the appointment of a Mahommedan Governor to appease them. I think his Excellency has much exaggerated their feelings, and I apprehend no serious consequences from the nomination of a Christian Governor, nor any emigration of Mussulman families. I had promised the delegates, as authorized by your Excellency, a Christian Governor."

The authority I referred to was that conveyed by your Excellency's telegram of the 30th ultimo, in which, referring to the probable appointment of Nikolaki Pasha or Photiades Bey as Vali of Crete, you add—

"Endeavour to persuade the Cretans to accept this, and I trust that it may lead to a settlement of difficulties."

After the receipt of this telegram I encouraged the delegates to hope that a Christian Vali would most likely be appointed for the first five years, but finding them ever and anon holding back on the plea that they must have something more sure to trust to than the vague expression of hopes, I felt myself justified, a whole week after the receipt of that telegram, in converting hope into certainty, with the happy result of finally removing their last scruples.

I had the satisfaction this morning of receiving your Excellency's telegram dated yesterday, by which you inform me that the Grand Vizier had given you the distinct assurance that, in spite of any representations that may be made by Moukhtar Pasha, a Christian Governor will be appointed to Crete.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 3 in No. 710.

Consul Sandwith to Sir A. H. Layard.

Canea, Crete, October 20, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to add a translation, herewith inclosed, of the two additions appended at the last moment by the delegates to the modifications to be introduced into the Organic Law of Crete, but which have not yet been sanctioned by the Imperial Commissioner.

The Cretans attach great importance to these two questions. Article 13 gives them no well defined right to any share in the produce of the Customs, which, it is to be foreseen, will always have to satisfy as a first claim the demands made upon it by the military authorities. If a clear half were recognized as belonging as of right to the local Budget, the General Assembly would exercise a wholesome control over the administration of that Department, which would be to the advantage of all

concerned. The estimates made by the Commissioner of the gross revenue of the Customs for the years 1872, 1873, and 1874, as given in my despatch, his Excellency has since discovered, were over-stated, and he considers that after deducting 5,000*l.* Turkish for the duty on salt, not properly included in the Customs, and another 5,000*l.* Turkish for working expenses, the net sum available as revenue will not exceed 30,000*l.* Turkish per annum.

The other request, that the arrears of pay due to the employés should not remain as a charge on the future revenue of the country, is also one of capital importance, but very difficult of being solved in a way which would be fair to all concerned. If the employés were assured of henceforth receiving their pay regularly, they would, I am convinced, be content to wait till some means could be found for satisfying their claims, for it is certain that if these are to be met out of current revenue, the reorganized administration will receive a check which will sorely try its powers of vitality. The delegates begged me earnestly to recommend these two questions to your Excellency's consideration.

The Article (D) on proselytism seems to have been suppressed because the delegates were anxious that the old local usage on the subject should not receive the sanction of the Organic Law. They had demanded that when any one changed his religion that step should not be punished by banishment. This request was disregarded, because it was thought imprudent to expose such persons to the fanatical hate of their former co-religionists. It appears that in two or three villages there are several Mussulman families which are secretly Christian, but who hesitate to declare themselves such for fear of the penalty of exile which would follow that declaration.

I take the liberty of adding a few further remarks on two other articles. Article 3 underwent great change in the revised copy, the principle on which the elections to the General Assembly are to be conducted not being enunciated as in the first copy. The Commissioner thought that by allowing the principle to remain on record, it might hereafter lead to an attempt on the part of the Christians to create more seats of their own in the General Assembly. I was anxious that the original number of twenty-nine Mussulmans and fifty-one Christians should be retained as representing more nearly the real proportion between the two communities. In three out of the four kazas which are to return an equal number of deputies the preponderance of Christians is considerable, and in that of Viano, the last on the list, three-fourths of the population are Christian. Here there is room for discontent likely to lead to future agitation, which I thought it short-sighted policy not to recognize and remedy at once. The Mussulmans have had the fullest justice done to their claims to representation, as will be apparent from the following examples:—

	Christian Families.	Moslem Families.
Apokoronn	2,500	60
Mylopotamos	3,400	200
Mirabello and Lasithe	3,800	300

Where in each case they return one member to three for the Christians.

Article 4 gives the Cretan General Assembly the right to frame Codes of Civil and Criminal Procedure and a municipal law. My first impression was, that they were invoking a privilege beyond their sphere as a Provincial Assembly, but it appears they intend to adopt, with a few slight modifications suited to local circumstances, the civil and criminal procedure in use in the Island of Samos, which is said to be remarkable for its simplicity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

P.S.—Since writing the above I have had the honour to receive a telegram from your Excellency dated last night, and stating that in the Council of Ministers held yesterday the arrangement made with the Cretan General Assembly had been agreed to, a slight modification only of the Article about covering the deficit in the Budget by the half of the Customs receipts being introduced. It has been proposed in case of a deficit to meet it by a contribution from the Imperial Treasury. Your Excellency adds that the decision of the Council was to be immediately submitted to the Sultan for His Majesty's sanction.

Although some disappointment will be felt at the deficits in the Budgets having to be supplied from the uncertain source indicated in the telegram, it will not be such

as materially to deduct from the satisfaction arising from the acceptance of all the other demands.

T. B. S.

Inclosure 4 in No. 710.

Translation of Additions made to the Modifications in the Organic Law of Crete at the moment of signing the Document.

NOUS, les Soussignés, au nom et par l'ordre de l'Assemblée Générale des Chrétiens de la Crète, acceptons les modifications ci-dessus au Règlement Organique qui nous ont été communiquées par son Excellence le Commissaire Impérial Achmet Moukhtar Pacha, en présence de leurs Excellences le Gouverneur-Général de Crète, Costaki Pacha, de Salim Effendi, et de M. Thomas B. Sandwith, Consul de Sa Majesté Britannique en Crète, en ajoutant de notre part les demandes suivantes :—

1. Que la moitié des droits des Douanes soit portée chaque année au Budget de l'île.

2. Que les dettes de la caisse du vilayet actuellement existant ne soient pas portées à la charge de l'administration future de l'île.

Nous prions enfin que le Firman Impérial sanctionnant les modifications ci-dessus soit émis au plus tôt.

Les Délégués de l'Assemblée Générale des Chrétiens de Crète,
(Suivent les signatures.)

N.B.—La demande [d], concernant le prosélytisme et les renégats, a été tout-à-fait supprimée, par une note sur la marge.

Halepa, le $\frac{1}{5}$ Octobre, 1878.

No. 711.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 30.)

(No. 109. Political.)

My Lord, *Canea, Crete, October* 21, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy and a translation of a Petition addressed to me by the delegates of the Cretan National Assembly, praying that the execution of the Organic Law as completed by the modifications now introduced into it may be guaranteed to them by Her Majesty's Government.

I had the honour, in my despatch No. 95 of the 23rd ultimo, to bring this subject to your Lordship's notice. Your Lordship has since had an opportunity of learning exactly what the privileges are which the Cretan Christians desire to be guaranteed to them. I may be permitted to say that while deeply grateful to Her Majesty's Government for having so effectually afforded its mediation in the arrangement just come to with the Porte, they are anxious to see the good work completed by the assurance being given them that the amended Organic Law shall be carried out under the surveillance of the only Great Power which has helped them to obtain it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure in No. 711.

The Delegates of the Cretan General Assembly to Consul Sandwith.

(Traduction.)

M. le Consul, *Halepa, le $\frac{4}{5}$ Octobre*, 1878.

OBÉISSANT à un ordre de l'Assemblée Générale des Crétois, les Soussignés adressent au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique la prière qu'il voudrait bien s'entendre avec la Sublime Porte pour prendre sous sa haute surveillance l'application exacte du Règlement Organique, avec les modifications y apportées par suite de sa médiation.

La sollicitude que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté a constamment témoignée pour la tranquillité et la bonne administration de notre île, nous fait espérer qu'en exauçant cette fois aussi le vœu du peuple Crétois, il lui fournira l'assurance qu'il jouira enfin de ses biens, et qu'une des causes principales des troubles continuels auxquels notre pays est presque constamment exposé sera ainsi écarté.

Avec cette espérance, &c.

(Suivent les signatures.)

No. 712.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 2.)

(No. 111. Political.)

My Lord, *Canea, Crete, October* 25, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch which I have written to his Excellency Sir Austen Layard touching the acceptance by the Porte of the amended Organic Law of Crete.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure in No. 712.

Consul Sandwith to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Canea, Crete, October* 25, 1878.

ON the 22nd instant I had the honour to receive the following from your Excellency :—

"*October* 21.

"With reference to my telegram of the 19th instant I am informed by the Grand Vizier that the modification desired from the Porte is that on those occasions when there may be a deficit due to the expenses of administration it shall be covered by the half of the revenue of the Custom-house, and not when it is due to the outlay on public works. This appears to me, as far as I can judge ——— endeavour to get at ——— if there should be any difficulty. The Grand Vizier promises the Firman will be sent at once."

There is some obscurity in the latter part of the telegram, but supposing your Excellency desired to know more accurately what the meaning of the delegates was I telegraphed the following :—

"The Commissioner agreed that whenever deficits arose from the expenses of the administration they should be met by the revenue of the Custom-house up to the half, that is, if a third was sufficient only a third would be given. The desire of the delegates had been that a clear half should always belong to the local budget. There was no question about the outlay on public works."

On the following day, the 23rd instant, I called on his Excellency Moukhtar Pasha, who informed me that he had that morning received a telegram from his Government stating that the arrangement made with the delegates had received the sanction of the Ministry and of the Sultan, and that the Firman giving effect to it would be sent by the steamer. It is therefore looked for on the 29th instant, unless the Porte should think it advisable to send it sooner by a special steamer. From the terms of the Commissioner's telegram it is not quite clear whether the two desiderata added at the last moment have been conceded by the Porte or not.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 713.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 30.)

(No. 892.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October 25, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith, in translation by Mr. Michell, an announcement from the official Russian Gazette of the 13th instant, as also the official telegram published by the "Agence Russe," stating that General Prince Dondoukoff Korsakoff, the Imperial Russian Commissioner in Bulgaria, had removed his residence to Sofia, and that the administration of Eastern Bulgaria had been confided to the control of General Stolepin.

I beg to call your Lordship's attention to the appellation of Eastern Bulgaria used by the official organ of the Russian Government for designating Roumelia.

All the Russian papers have used the same appellation as the official journal, with the exception of the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg," which your Lordship will see by the inclosed has given the correct term of "Roumélie Orientale," evidently to avoid comments on the part of the foreign press.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 713.

Extract from the "Official Gazette" of October $\frac{13}{25}$, 1878.

GENERAL PRINCE DONDOUKOFF KORSAKOFF, the Imperial Russian Commissary in Bulgaria, telegraphs on the $\frac{10th}{22nd}$ October that he has removed to Sofia, to which place the head-quarters of the Administration of the Principality of Bulgaria, with the exception of some administrative branches, have been transferred.

The administration of Eastern Bulgaria has been confided to the independent control of General Stolepin, who, in the exercise of his functions, acquires the rights of a Governor-General.

Inclosure 2 in No. 713.

Extract from the "Agence Russe."

(Télégraphique.) *St. Pétersbourg, Jeudi soir, $\frac{14}{26}$ Octobre*, 1878.

LE Commissaire Impérial Russe en Bulgarie, l'Aide-de-camp Général Prince Dondoukoff Korsakoff, télégraphie qu'il a transféré sa résidence le 7 Octobre à Sofia, où a été également transféré le centre du Gouvernement de la Principauté Bulgare, à l'exception de certaines administrations. L'administration de la Bulgarie Orientale est confiée directement du Lieutenant-Général Stolipine, muni des pouvoirs du Gouverneur Général.

Inclosure 3 in No. 713.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of October $\frac{13}{25}$, 1878.

LA résidence du Commissaire Impérial Russe en Bulgarie est transférée à Sofia depuis le 10 Octobre. C'est dans cette ville que se trouveront désormais presque toutes les autorités centrales de la principauté.

Le Général Stolipine est chargé de l'Administration de la Roumélie Orientale avec les droits d'un Gouverneur-Général.

No. 714.

M. Waddington to the Marquis d'Harcourt.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by the Marquis d'Harcourt, October 30.)

LE Congrès de Berlin dans sa treizième séance a décidé que la Sublime Porte serait invitée à s'entendre avec la Grèce pour une rectification de frontières en Thessalie et en Epire, et il a exprimé l'avis que cette rectification pourrait suivre la Vallée des Salemyras, sur le versant de la Mer Égée, et celle du Kalamyrias, du côté de la Mer Ionienne. Dans un esprit de sage prévoyance, la Haute Assemblée a ajouté que, si la Turquie et la Grèce ne parvenaient pas à se mettre d'accord, les Puissances étaient prêtes à offrir leur médiation aux parties intéressées, et cette disposition a été consacrée par l'Article XXIV du Traité du 13 Juillet.

Le Gouvernement Hellénique entra immédiatement dans la procédure qui lui était ouverte par les résolutions du Congrès. Il s'adressa dès le 17 Juillet au Ministère de la Porte à Athènes, pour provoquer la nomination de deux Commissaires Ottomans, chargés de procéder, de concert avec ceux qui seraient désignés par la Grèce, aux délimitations dont l'Europe venait de formuler le principe.

Le Gouvernement de la Sublime Porte garda le silence sur cette communication; mais dans une Circulaire datée du 8 Août il s'attacha à démontrer le danger des revendications Helléniques, et à détourner les Puissances de prêter leur appui des desseins qu'ils représentaient comme susceptibles de compromettre la paix générale.

Les conclusions de ce document portèrent le Cabinet Athènes à réitérer ses instances à Constantinople afin d'obtenir une réponse directe à sa demande du 17 Juillet. La Sublime Porte déclara alors à l'Envoyé du Gouvernement Hellénique qu'elle ne pouvait pas déférer à son désir avant de connaître le sentiment des Puissances sur le Mémoire qu'elle venait de leur adresser.

En présence de cette fin de non-recevoir, il a paru au Cabinet d'Athènes que son action était pour le moment épuisée, et, invoquant le bénéfice de l'Article XXIV du Traité du 13 Juillet, il vient de solliciter la médiation des Puissances.

Tel est en quelques mots l'exposé des faits sur lesquels je vous prie de vouloir bien appeler l'attention du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique. En émettant le vœu qu'une rectification de frontières fût consentie par la Porte en faveur de la Grèce, le Congrès de Berlin a obéi à des considérations dont l'intérêt ne s'est pas affaibli. Les Puissances se sont rencontrées dans la conviction que rien ne serait plus propre à consolider le nouveau système politique créé en Orient que de rechercher les conditions auxquelles des relations amicales et confiantes pouvaient être l'effet d'un arrangement territorial, conçu de manière à donner satisfaction à l'une sans affaiblir l'autre. Le Premier Plénipotentiaire d'Angleterre exprimait l'opinion du Congrès lorsqu'il déclarait qu'une rectification de frontières serait un acte de haute politique favorable à la prospérité des deux pays.

Pour notre part, vous le savez, nous avons toujours attaché le plus grand prix à ce que l'exécution intégral du Traité de Berlin fut assurée, sans distinguer entre les stipulations qui le composent, et en attribuant à chacune d'elles la même importance dans une œuvre où tout s'enchaîne. C'est à ce point de vue que nous nous plaçons pour aborder aujourd'hui l'examen des questions soulevées par l'Article XXIV. A la vérité, la Porte semble plus préoccupée jusqu'ici de combattre des idées et des doctrines dont l'Europe a toujours tenu à se séparer, dans l'expression de ses sympathies en faveur de la Grèce, que de repousser la résolution si modérée qui a reçu la sanction formelle du Congrès. Mais l'insuccès des démarches tentées directement par le Cabinet d'Athènes n'en est pas moins un fait acquis, et les Puissances ne sauraient fermer les yeux sur les inconvénients d'un tel état de choses. En laissant se développer des germes de conflit sur un théâtre où les esprits sont faciles à enflammer, l'Europe perdrait atteinte de ses propres mains à l'autorité de ses décisions, et perdrait ainsi une partie de l'influence qu'elle exerce sur des populations habituées à compter sur son appui. Elle ne demande, d'ailleurs, au Sultan, aucun sacrifice inconciliable avec ses intérêts, et elle n'attend de lui qu'une concession opportune à des nécessités politiques et morales dont la satisfaction est intimement liée au repos de l'Orient.

Nous espérons que le Cabinet de Londres ne méconnaîtra pas la valeur de ces considérations, et il pensera avec nous que l'Europe se trouvant dans le cas prévu par l'Article XXIV de l'Acte du 13 Juillet, le moment est venu pour elle d'offrir sa médiation à la Turquie et à la Grèce. Le caractère et le but de cette démarche seraient, d'ailleurs, nettement définis. Les Six Puissances exprimeraient le désir que la Porte donnât son adhésion explicite au principe d'une rectification des frontières en

faveur de la Grèce, suivant le vœu exprimé dans la séance du Congrès de Berlin du 5 Juillet, et consentît à nommer des Commissaires qui seraient chargés d'étudier avec ceux du Gouvernement Hellénique les conditions du nouveau tracé. Cette démarche, pour répondre à la pensée du Congrès, doit être accomplie avec toute l'autorité qu'il dépend des Puissances de lui imprimer, et nous proposons de convenir qu'elle prendra la forme d'une communication identique et simultanée.

(Signé) WADDINGTON.

No 715.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 30.)

(No. 958.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October 29, 1878.*

I AM informed that Emperor of Russia has telegraphed to the Sultan to say that he will not permit any Bulgarian armed bands to be formed for invasion of Macedonia in places occupied by Russian troops.

No. 716.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 30.)

(No. 959.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October 29, 1878.*

I HAVE informed Sultan confidentially of the substance of your Lordship's two telegrams of the 26th instant, referring to the determination of Her Majesty's Government to insist upon the evacuation of the Balkan Peninsula by the Russian troops according to the Treaty of Berlin, strictly obeying your instructions.

His Majesty was greatly moved by the communication. He declared to me in the most solemn manner that he would execute, as soon as possible, his remaining obligations under the Treaty, especially as regards Podgoritza and Spuz.

I urged upon His Majesty the importance of taking steps towards renewing intimate and friendly relations with Austria. I think that he will do so.

No. 717.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 30.)

(No. 38.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 29, 1878.*

GENERAL STOLEPIN, Governor-General, told M. Kallai that he has proposed at Constantinople exchange of lands between Mussulman refugees from Eastern Roumelia and Christian refugees from Mussulman provinces. This seems specious, but it is evidently intended thus to denude Eastern Roumelia of all Mussulman element.

Bulgarian deputation has this morning presented Commissioners severally with petition against Berlin arrangements, and another, emanating from Russian Consulate, is being prepared for signature, expressing satisfaction with existing Russian institutions as being adapted to wants of the country.

The Russians are still destroying the Turkish houses here, and I hear of constant cases of maltreatment of Turks. A Turkish deputation called yesterday on me to represent this. Could you send me a cypher to communicate with Mr. Palgrave?

Please answer by telegraph if you receive this, and when.

No. 718.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 30.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, October 29, 1878.*

THE Russian party, which for some time has been much effaced, is becoming more active, and is working here to make belief that it is Russia only who can realize the wishes of Greece. It desires thus to deprive France and England of the merit with respect to initiative which they have taken in the question of the rectification of frontier.

It is thought that the return to Athens of the Russian Minister has been hastened to begin in this sense.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 719.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 30.)

(No. 961.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 30, 1878.*

I HAVE received urgent appeal from the wives of Arif and Shaban Aghas, who state husbands have been sent in irons to Sofia, and implore me to take steps to obtain their release.

No. 720.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 30.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, October 30, 1878.*

SERVIAN Government has concluded with Austrian manufacturers large contracts for military clothing, and other supplies, to be delivered within two months. At the same time it is reported that unusual activity prevails in Government workshops and foundries.

Numerous Russian emissaries are said to be at work here and in Bosnia, as well as among Slav population in the neighbouring Hungarian provinces.

No. 721.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 30.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, October 30, 1878.*

A HINT has been received here confidentially from a friendly Power that Roumania had better proceed with the greatest caution in all she does about occupation of the Dobrudscha, and having been asked whether or not Her Majesty's Government saw any objection to the taking possession of that province, I said that I was not aware of any, especially as the new boundary was going to be marked out by the Delimitation Commission at once, provided that the occupation was not accompanied by any secret engagements towards Russia, or by any arrangement conferring on the Russian Government any right of military passage different from, or for longer period than, Article XXII of the Treaty of Berlin has stipulated.

These people feel that they may be exposed to imminent danger from Russia should fresh hostilities break out again in the east of Europe. Should Her Majesty's Government be disposed to give them friendly advice, it would appear desirable that Austria should be informed at any rate that she should be aware how great is the pressure exercised here by Russia to induce acceptance of her overtures.

(Above sent to Sir H. Elliot this morning.)

No. 722.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 719.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, October 30, 1878.*

IN reply to your Excellency's despatch No. 880 of the 15th instant, I have to inform you that Mr. E. Harrison is the Comptroller-General in the Accounts' Department at Calcutta. This position may perhaps be considered as somewhat analogous to that of M. Courcier or of M. Audibert in France; but of this your Excellency will be able to judge in acquainting M. Waddington with the official status of Mr. Harrison.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 723.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 720.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, October 30, 1878.*

AT an interview which I had to-day with the French Ambassador, his Excellency delivered to me a note from M. Waddington, raising the question of mediating with the Porte in regard to the rectification of the frontier of Greece.

M. d'Harcourt said that M. Waddington's object was not to procure an immediate cession of territory, which, under the circumstances, seemed impossible, but to obtain the admission of the principle by the Porte, and so to secure the disbandment of the Greek army, which he regarded as a serious menace to peace.

I replied that the matter was one on which I could not give a definitive answer without consulting my colleagues; but that at first sight there seemed to me to be some difficulty in addressing an identic note to the Porte with respect to the disregard of a recommendation of the Six Powers, without, at the same time, addressing one to the Russian Government with respect to the breach of an absolute stipulation of which it was at present believed to be guilty, by maintaining in the Balkan Peninsula more than 50,000 men.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 724.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 372.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 30, 1878.*

THE Italian Ambassador called upon me to-day to announce the appointment of M. Cairoli as Minister for Foreign Affairs in Italy. His Excellency stated that the foreign policy pursued by him would be precisely similar to that which had been followed by Count Corti; that the policy of Italy was peace; that she desired above all things the friendship of England; and that though she strongly wished for a rectification of her north-eastern frontier, she had no intention of quarrelling with her neighbour Austria on that account.

I assured M. de Menabrea that I reciprocated cordially, on the part of England, M. Cairoli's expression of goodwill; and I intimated that this country took a special interest in the observance of that part of his programme which promised to maintain peace with Austria.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 725.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Gould.

(No. 38.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 30, 1878.*

I HAVE to state to you that I entirely approve the remonstrances addressed by you in your conversations with M. Ristich, as reported in your despatches Nos. 186 and 187, Secret and Confidential, with reference to the assurances you had received that the Servian troops had been withdrawn within their own territory, as defined by the Treaty of Berlin, which assurances it now appears were not consistent with the real state of the case.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 726.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond-Wolff.

(No. 7[illegible])
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 30, 1878.*

I HAVE to state to you that I approve the tenor of the observations made by you in your conversation with Count Hatzfeldt on the working of the Commission of which you are a member, as reported in your despatch No. 61, Confidential, of the 14th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 727.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. White.

(No. 55.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 30, 1878.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 100, Political, of the 19th instant, stating that you had advised the Roumanian Government to have a surveying staff in readiness to survey the line of boundary between the Dobrudscha and Bulgaria upon the arrival of the Bulgarian Delimitation Commission, and I have to convey to you my approval of your proceedings.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 728.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 31.)

(No. 506.)
My Lord, *Athens, October 20, 1878.*

REFERRING to my despatch No. 505 of yesterday's date, I have the honour to inclose a French translation, as published in the "Messager d'Athènes," of the speech delivered by the Prime Minister in the Chamber of Deputies on the 14th instant.

M. Commoundouros commenced his speech by explaining the position of Greece with reference to the complications in the East of Europe. He defends the conduct of the Government before and since the Congress, and declares that the attitude recently taken up by Turkey with reference to the new frontiers "conceded to Greece" have increased the difficulties of the situation; that it is necessary for the country to be prepared for every eventuality, and, consequently, to keep the army on a war footing. He says that the Budget for this year was framed to support an army of 28,000 men, but it has been found necessary to increase the number to 35,000 men, which increase he declares is justified by the circumstances of the moment.

Passing to the financial part of the subject, M. Commoundouros says that, as new resources had to be obtained, it was necessary to regulate beforehand the ancient national debt of Greece, and this has been done.

His Excellency declares that he himself was in favour of taking part in the war

against Turkey, but he was overruled by his colleagues, who considered that, there being no intention on the part of Europe to settle definitely the Eastern question, but only to regulate it, the claims of a race worthy of their sympathy could not be neglected. England especially having said, "Reassure yourselves, the rights of Hellenism are equally assured," his colleagues felt that it was useless to take part in the war against the will of Europe, as Greece would obtain what she wanted without doing so.

This, he adds, is the reason the whole Cabinet adopted the advice of England, and the above are the motives which dictated their conduct.

He expresses his regret that the first proposal of your Lordship at Berlin was rejected, and that the limited decision of the Congress obliged M. Delyanni to circumscribe his advocacy of Greek interests.

At this moment the Government is grateful for the unanimous desire for the augmentation of territory to be accorded to Greece expressed by the Plenipotentiaries at Berlin; it would continue to follow the counsels given to them by foreign Powers, and would wait in a conciliatory, moderate, and peaceful spirit the realization of their wishes.

He goes on to show that it is necessary to maintain a sufficient military force to put down opposition, which might be expected, if the provinces were conceded by Turkey, on the part of those unwilling to obey orders received from Constantinople (as in the case of the occupation by Austria of Bosnia and Herzegovina).

He expresses his doubts that the Porte will give way to the advice of Europe (in the Greek question), or that Europe will speak sufficiently decidedly to make the Sultan do so, but that, when Greece is in a position to act, Europe will then only effectively bestir itself, and impose peace upon Greece and cause Turkey to give way.

For the last two years the country has made great sacrifices, in the hope that something would occur to call for action, and, now that they had the unanimous decision of Europe in their favour and Europe on their side, it was necessary not to be intimidated at the moment when, the matter having become European, there was a certainty that it would receive an European solution.

Passing from the political to the financial part of his statement, M. Coumoundouros expressed his hope that the Greek question will receive a prompt solution, and that next year it may be possible to present a normal Budget to the Chamber: the present Budget contemplated the maintenance of 18,000 men under arms, for which purpose 13 millions were required, but to enable the Government to call out two classes of reserves 35 millions additional would be required for the year 1879 to maintain an army of 40,000 men.

M. Coumoundouros concludes his speech by the usual allusions to Themistodes and other ancient Grecian heroes, and tells Greece that if she prefers peace and material progress to everything else she should distinctly proclaim it, and take a resolution in consequence: "As far as we are concerned, we are ready to retire from the Government."

In answer to the Prime Minister's statement, the Opposition, represented by Messieurs Tricoupi and Zaimis, laid particular stress upon two points reproaching the Government with uselessly maintaining a large army, burdensome to the Treasury, and with not having rightly understood the Mission with which it was charged at Berlin. The army as at present organized is the principal cause of the loans which are now demanded. What is the use, they ask, of keeping under arms so large a force if Europe, which had signed the XXIVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, was disposed seriously to do honour to its signature? it is impossible that it should allow Greece to take forcible possession of the frontiers promised, and consequently the reserves might be sent home to the advantage of agriculture and the relief of the Treasury: it is far preferable to have a small army of 18,000 men thoroughly disciplined and armed, and provided with every necessary for a campaign, than the present larger force incapable of moving forward.

M. Tricoupi, late Minister for Foreign Affairs, especially reproached the Representative of Greece at the Congress with having advocated the interest of the Greek Crown and not those of the Hellenic race. He spoke disparagingly of what had been accorded to Greece as compared with what had been obtained by other nationalities.

M. Delyanni, Minister for Foreign Affairs, denied that Greece had been invited to the Congress as the representative of Hellenism, but only for consultation as regards the neighbouring provinces; the greatest secrecy prevailed during the negotiations at

Berlin, and it was only later that he became aware of the concessions accorded, which, however, he did not approve of, and he expressed the opinion that the Government agreed "au fond" with M. Tricoupi, and that the difference of their points of view was one of detail only, which later discussions would remove.

On the renewal of the debate on the 15th instant, M. Zaimis, Chief of the Opposition, said that he had not desired to provoke a discussion on foreign politics for fear it might be prejudicial to the interests of the nation; that it was preferable to discuss only the Ministerial proposals, as nobody desired to raise at this moment a Ministerial question, but, as the discussion had taken place, he supported the views of M. Tricoupi, and declared that the XXIVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin was in favour of Greece, and he did not doubt but that the Great Powers would insist upon its being carried out. He was in favour of disbanding the reserves and calling in foreign officers to instruct the soldiers.

On the 16th instant M. Valetta vehemently attacked the Government, accusing it of fomenting insurrection in Epirus and Thessaly, blaming them for sending the army across the frontier, and afterwards imploring the intervention of the Powers to get them out of their trouble.

M. Pétémézas, late Minister of War, answered that it was to save the honour of the country the order to pass the frontier had been given, and that this decision had caused the intervention of the Powers, and caused the Hellenic question to be brought before the Congress.

The debate was continued on the 17th, and closed the next day by a speech of M. Coumoundouros, who declared with reference to a proposed adjournment that if it was accepted the Ministry would resign.

The ultimate result of the debate was communicated to your Lordship in my despatch No. 505 of the 19th instant. The Government are disposed to look upon the small majority they have obtained as a vote of confidence in their favour.

The Opposition, however, in general, were desirous to confine the debate to smaller issues, considering that, the whole of the documents promised not having been laid before the Chamber, the elements of a definitive judgment on the conduct of the Government were wanting.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

Inclosure in No. 728.

Extract from "Le Messager d'Athènes" of October 17, 1878.

Discours de M. le Président du Conseil.

(Extrait du Compte-rendu Officiel.)

RÉUNIS après une absence de plusieurs mois—et soyez les bienvenus—vous désirez, naturellement, savoir ce qui a été fait dans cet intervalle. Je regrette de n'avoir pu remplir un moment plus tôt ce devoir d'autant plus que la grande confiance que vous nous avez témoignée en vous séparant, la conduite patriotique de tous les partis envers nous, ont fait de notre œuvre une chose sérieuse et accru notre responsabilité. Nous sentons, par conséquent, l'obligation de vous rendre compte de tout, et de vous donner, sur notre politique, et autant que les intérêts du pays le permettent, les explications les plus détaillées. Il en sera de même en ce qui concerne, et notre honneur personnel y est engagé, notre gestion financière. C'est ce que je vais faire en peu de mots; vous ne demanderez pas beaucoup de choses aujourd'hui; néanmoins nous entrerons dans tous les détails chaque fois que vous l'exigerez.

Avant notre séparation, Messieurs, les provinces limitrophes étaient en pleine insurrection. Cela arrive chaque fois qu'une occasion se présente. De même qu'une plaie mal cicatrisée s'ouvre au moindre choc, les passions sociales, quand elles ne sont guéries, éclatent à la première occasion, et il n'est au pouvoir de personne de les conjurer. Donc, l'insurrection éclate, les victimes de ces passions prennent les armes, leurs parents, leurs concitoyens réfugiés en Grèce volent à leur secours. J'appuie sur ces mots pour prouver que l'insurrection est le fait des habitants des provinces soulevées qui l'ont soutenue de toutes leurs forces; je défie qui que ce soit de me prouver que les Chefs de l'insurrection n'appartenaient pas à ces provinces, et si l'on a vu en Crète un seul insurgé étranger à ce pays.

Ces hommes, Messieurs, ont été suivis aussi par des citoyens de la Grèce libre. Et il n'en pouvait être autrement. Le sang, les souffrances, la langue, l'origine commune forment, pour ainsi dire, un lien électrique qui unit toute la race des Hellènes et les vibrations de l'un de ses membres se communiquent aussitôt à tout le corps. Aussi, dès qu la moindre secousse se fait sentir dans un pays Grec, elle remue l'Hellénisme tout entier, et il faut une ferme volonté, une grande puissance sur soi-même pour ne pas être entraîné. Quand on se plaignait de ces révolutions, qu'on nous demandait de les réprimer, nous répondions d'une manière invariable que cela nous était matériellement impossible, n'ayant ni assez de vaisseaux pour surveiller nos côtes, ni assez de troupes pour garder nos frontières, et aussi parce que nous n'avions rien à opposer à ce sentiment général, aucune promesse de nature à les engager à déposer les armes.

Nous avons dit que l'insurrection, dont nous aussi désirions la fin, ne pouvait cesser qu'en faisant disparaître les causes qui l'avaient provoquée. La première réponse—et, si je ne trompe, elle se trouve dans les documents qui vous ont été soumis—qu'on nous a donnée, c'était que l'Europe promettait, une fois l'insurrection apaisée, de veiller à l'amélioration administrative et à la sécurité de ces provinces. La réponse et la promesse ne donnaient qu'une satisfaction incomplète aux opprimés qui voulaient désormais vivre comme hommes. Aussi ne produisirent-elles aucun effet. L'insurrection continua suivie des actes et des malheurs qui accompagnent les révolutions. Cependant, la puissante Angleterre, qui, la première, s'est occupée de cette affaire, envoya ses Consuls sur les lieux pour apaiser les provinces insurgées. Alors, on demanda aussi notre concours. Nous leur avons fait la même réponse :—"Nous ne pouvons, d'après nos lois, nos moyens, et notre position devant l'Hellénisme trouver des moyens suffisants à cet effet, notre force morale ne suffit que lorsque l'Europe nous promettra son appui, en nous donnant la garantie que les droits de nos malheureux frères seront suffisamment protégés. C'est ce qui a été formulé dans les télégrammes adressés par Mr. Wyndham à son Gouvernement." On a répondu à cette proposition en disant aux insurgés :—"Déposez les armes ; vos droits n'en souffriront point, et, je prends sur moi," ajoutait l'Angleterre, "que l'on entende, avec bienveillance, la Grèce les exposer dans toute leur étendue." Elle disait en même temps à la Grèce, qui posait nettement, clairement la question de l'union :—"Soyez tranquille ; je représenterai à l'Europe que la révolution existe toujours, qu'elle ne cesse que par moi et pour moi ; ne persistez pas à demander la promesse de faire émettre une résolution en faveur de l'union des opprimés à la Grèce ; cela ne dépend pas seulement de moi, disait-elle à peu près, qui, en ce moment combat seule, les résolutions séparées de la Russie." Ces arguments, en effet, étaient pour nous irréfutables, et nous constatons un grand progrès en comparant cette réponse à celle qui avait été faite à M. Tricoupi.

M. Tricoupi, quand il était Membre du Cabinet dont j'avais l'honneur de faire partie, s'était adressé à cet effet au Cabinet Anglais. "Si," répondit-il, "des Puissances qui n'ont pas signé le Traité de Paris sont admises au Congrès, la Grèce y sera certainement admise. Quant aux droits des Grecs, soyez persuadés que nous ferons nos efforts pour que la race Grecque soit traitée comme les autres, qu'elle obtienne les mêmes avantages administratifs."

Il y a une grande différence entre les deux réponses ; la question avait mûri, elle avait été fortifiée par des flots de sang. Au lieu de dire qu'elle prendrait en considération la demande de la Grèce quand d'autres petits Etats seraient admis au Congrès, l'Angleterre s'engageait à faire entendre la Grèce avec bienveillance au Congrès ; au lieu de la promesse que les Grecs obtiendraient les mêmes améliorations administratives que les autres Chrétiens de Turquie, elle a déclaré que les droits de l'insurrection restaient intacts, et qu'elle ne pouvait résoudre, elle seule, la question de l'union. Cela ressemble, Messieurs, à une promesse formelle. Telle était du moins notre conviction. Aussi avons-nous donné tout notre concours pour apaiser l'insurrection, et avons-nous félicité cordialement les insurgés. Pour la première fois, nous avons vu la question aussi promptement résolue, l'histoire nous enseignant que le droit, le faible ne l'a emporté en Orient sur l'injustice puissante que par une indomptable persévérance et d'immenses sacrifices.

Mais la question de l'insurrection se rattache à une autre difficulté, une difficulté intérieure. Vous vous rappelez les malheurs qui ont suivi la fin de l'insurrection de 1854. Le brigandage et les crimes ont déshonoré alors le pays, détruit des intérêts sérieux. Rien de pareil ne s'est heureusement produit pendant la dernière insurrection. Le repos du pays n'a pas été troublé, la sécurité publique n'a pas été atteinte. Ce n'est pas là seulement le fait d'énergiques mesures, mais aussi celui des progrès accomplis par le peuple progressif qui lui fait aimer l'ordre et la tranquilité. Cependant

quand l'Europe eut apaisé aussi cette insurrection—toutes les insurrections qui ont surgi depuis l'affranchissement de la Grèce ont été apaisées par l'intervention de l'Europe et non parce que leurs forces étaient épuisées par quelque grande victoire de leurs ennemis—nous n'avons eu à déplorer aucun malheur à l'intérieur, et nous avons obtenu que les vœux des insurgés seraient exaucés. Nous n'avons eu d'autre charge que celle qui se produit à chaque révolution, l'entretien de plusieurs milliers d'Hellènes qui s'étaient réfugiés sur notre territoire pour y trouver la sécurité et des moyens d'existence.

Il était aussi de notre devoir de continuer les préparatifs militaires. De grandes commandes avaient été faites sous le Ministère précédent ; nous les avons fidèlement exécutées par l'intermédiaire des mêmes personnes ou à peu près. Nous sous sommes occupés de les compléter dans la mesure de nos moyens. Aujourd'hui, nos arsenaux, nos dépôts sont pleins d'armes et de munitions. Je ne prétends pas que tout soit parfait ; mais nous pouvons avancer que nous avons remédié aux premiers besoins, que nous pouvons envisager les dangers avec confiance. Nous avons continué, selon vos instructions, à exercer des soldats, à amasser du matériel de guerre. Le budget que vous avez adopté portait l'armée à 28,000 hommes. Nous avons été forcés d'en porter dernièrement l'effectif à 35,000, dont 30,700 sont restés sous les drapeaux. Nous avons été malheureusement obligés de garder longtemps les réservistes, quoique leur engagement expirait à la fin du premier semestre. Nous l'avons fait ne sachant si les circonstances ne nous imposeraient pas l'obligation d'avoir sous les armes, non des conscrits, mais des soldats exercés. Une fois les circonstances passées, sans que rien de ce que l'on attendait soit arrivé, et que l'on compare, après coup, ce qui est avec ce qui pouvait être, on peut trouver sans doute beaucoup à redire, mais si on tient compte des circonstances, on verra qu'on ne pouvait pas agir autrement. Nous avons donc tenu sous les armes 30,000 hommes, dont 7,000 conscrits, 8,000 volontaires, 3,000 de la réserve régulière, et 10,000 de la réserve extraordinaire, ce qui nous fait 30,000 hommes, y compris la gendarmerie.

Nous devions aussi prévoir à un autre objet sérieux, trouver les moyens qui sont la base de toute action, de toute résolution. Nous nous sommes efforcés de remplir une lacune, que les circonstances ne nous avaient pas encore permis de combler, je veux parler du règlement des anciens emprunts, qui donnaient prise aux insultes lancées contre notre pays, l'atteignaient dans son honneur.

M. Zokkio.—Malheur à nous ! Je demande la parole.

M. le Président du Conseil.—Nous nous sommes occupés, je le dis avec orgueil et confiance, de combler cette lacune, et nous l'avons fait de la manière indiquée par l'intérêt et l'honneur du pays. Un arrangement honnête et avantageux a été conclu, et je serai désolé si le Parlement des Hellènes hésitait un moment à accepter cet arrangement ; son hésitation portant atteinte à toute grande opération financière. Je le répète donc avec orgueil : l'arrangement est conclu ; on vous soumettra demain une loi à cet effet.

Cette conduite honorable de la Grèce, ses sages procédés, le rigoureux accomplissement de ses obligations, ont relevé à l'extérieur le crédit dont elle a un besoin absolu pour ses opérations financières. Il est indispensable, urgent, de débarrasser le pays du cours forcé, qui porte préjudice aux intérêts de l'Etat et des particuliers. Pour remédier à ce besoin et à d'autres du Trésor public, pour améliorer les voies de communication, nous avons fait des efforts en vue de contracter un emprunt à l'étranger. Ces efforts ont abouti ; d'après les derniers renseignements que nous avons reçus, la Convention est sur le point d'être conclue. Il n'y a plus qu'une chose à discuter—les garanties à donner pour le service de l'emprunt. Nous avons fait cela pour vous soumettre notre travail ; c'est à vous à décider quand vous aurez l'ensemble sous les yeux. Ainsi, par le relèvement de notre crédit à l'extérieur, nous aurons des ressources, et nous aurons réfuté le reproche de mauvaise foi et d'insolvabilité qu'on croyait pouvoir nous adresser.

Un autre devoir s'imposait à nous, la solution de la grande question extérieure. Quand nous nous sommes séparés la paix n'avait pas encore été signée. On discutait les droits des peuples sur les champs de bataille. La Grèce n'avait pas pris part à la guerre. J'insiste sur ces mots, ne désirant pas qu'on puisse nous accuser de lâcheté, qu'on puisse dire que nous avons reculé devant la crainte de voir nos côtes ravagées par l'ennemi. Il serait absurde de prétendre que nous avons redouté la perte d'une dizaine de millions, quand nous avons subi des dommages plus considérables sans avoir résolu la question, et que, d'avance, nous étions convaincus qu'en faisant la guerre à côté d'une Puissance, à qui la victoire devait rester, nous aurions été grandement dédommagés. Mon avis était que nous devions participer à la guerre ; mais l'avis

contraire a prévalu. Ceux qui étaient de cet avis étaient peut-être persuadés que l'Europe, n'ayant pas l'intention de résoudre la question d'Orient, mais seulement celle de la régler, n'aurait pas passé outre sur les droits d'une race digne de sa sollicitude de ses sympathies particulières. Une Grande Puissance, l'Angleterre, les a fortifiés dans cette idée; elle disait: "Rassurez-vous; les droits de l'Hellénisme sont également assurés." C'est pourquoi ils disaient: "A quoi bon faire la guerre contre la volonté de l'Europe puisque nous obtiendrons tout de même ce que nous demandons?" C'est la cause qui nous a fait adopter, à tous, le conseil de l'Angleterre; ce sont les motifs qui ont dicté notre conduite.

Quelques jours après notre séparation l'Europe s'est réunie en Congrès. Nos amis, ceux qui nous aimaient, nous ont conseillé d'y envoyer des représentants. Nos Représentants s'y rendirent avec la conviction, que je vous ai exprimée sur les révolutions, et la certitude, basée sur les avis réitérés de Lord Derby et du Marquis de Salisbury, que les droits de la race Hellénique seraient sous la protection de la puissante, très-puissante Angleterre, qu'elle serait traitée sur un pied d'égalité avec les autres races. Le Congrès a bien voulu les entendre; elle les a invités par une résolution conditionnelle. Malheureusement, le large programme de l'Angleterre a été écarté; une résolution du Congrès l'a limité et, nos Plénipotentiaires—notre honorable Ministre des Affaires Étrangères donnera des détails sur ce sujet—furent forcés de se tenir dans le cercle étroit tracé par cette résolution. Mais comme Hellènes, Messieurs, ils devaient tendre jusqu'au point indiqué par l'Angleterre, la protection de l'Hellénisme. Et si nous ne pouvions nous exprimer, rien demander au Congrès d'une manière formelle, sa résolution ayant fixé les limites de notre action, nous avons cru qu'il ne fallait pas séparer la question limitée de l'annexion de la grande idée. Ainsi la question chimérique de la grande idée est devenue une question Européenne. Je le répète, l'honorable Ministre des Affaires Étrangères vous donnera des renseignements plus complets.

Quand cette idée a pour elle les suffrages de l'Angleterre, de l'Autriche, et de l'Italie, elle prend les proportions d'une question Européenne. Si j'avais été à Berlin, je n'aurais pas traité la question autrement que mon honorable collègue, le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères. Il ne s'est pas, heureusement, trouvé dans la nécessité de démontrer quel lien indissoluble unit la Grèce à l'Olympe et à Janina, le berceau des héros de la révolution, Botzaris, Colletti, Caraïskaki, Tzavella; il s'est tenu dans la question que le Ministre d'Angleterre a posée le premier, la sécurité, le repos pour la Grèce. Les frontières, a dit Lord Beaconsfield, ont été mal tracées; il ne saurait y avoir de tranquillité, de sécurité pour aucun des deux Etats limitrophes; il faut les rectifier ou nous ne pourrons rien espérer de durable. Et quand on nous demande quel est notre droit, je suis surpris d'entendre nier cette nécessité proclamée, reconnue par toute l'Europe. C'est le droit de la légalité contre l'oppression, de la civilization contre la barbarie, de la justice contre l'arbitraire. Ce droit, Dieu a imposé à chacun de le soutenir en faveur de ses frères. On peut le contester aux faibles, il ne cesse jamais d'exister.

Enfin, Messieurs, le Congrès de Berlin a pris une résolution. Sur la généreuse initiative des nobles représentants de la France et de l'Italie admise par les Ministres des Puissances bienfaitrices de la Grèce, de l'Angleterre, et de l'Autriche, la résolution a été prise à l'unanimité; il n'y a eu ni opposition ni difficulté. Cette résolution l'opinion publique de l'Europe l'a adoptée, applaudie; elle est complète, certaine, et comme l'a dit Lord Beaconsfield dans un de ses discours, c'est une résolution comprenant la cession de provinces de la part du Congrès de Berlin.

Voilà où nous en sommes aujourd'hui. Nous avons une résolution adoptée à l'unanimité par l'Europe, et nous devons être reconnaissants, toutes les Puissances ayant montré les mêmes sympathies, le même zèle en faveur de la Grèce. Nous suivons les conseils qu'on nous a donnés et qu'on nous donne encore et nous en poursuivons la réalisation d'une manière conciliante, modérée, pacifique. Et cela est conforme à notre politique, notre désir étant de vivre en paix avec la Puissance voisine. Les intérêts des deux Etats l'exigent. Notre intérêt et celui des Turcs est de suivre cette politique, mais elle ne peut exister qu'à la condition que nous puissions avant tout assurer notre existence; que nous puissions vivre, non par de plus grands acquisitions territoriales seulement, mais de sûreté et de tranquillité sans lesquelles nous ne saurions songer à une action commune. Je crois que c'est là politique qu'il convient d'adopter pour l'intérêt du pays.

Voilà ce que nous avons fait jusqu'ici. Qu'allons-nous maintenant faire à l'avenir, car c'est de cela aussi qu'il s'agit, c'est ce que vous voulez savoir. Nous pensons, Messieurs, que nous devons suivre la même politique jusqu'à la solution de la question.

Et pourquoi? L'Europe, vous le savez, a pris une résolution, mais elle l'a accompagnée de la simple, mais grave observation qu'elle n'a pas l'intention d'employer la force matérielle pour la faire exécuter. Faut-il donc désespérer? Est-ce à dire que nous sommes incapables d'agir, d'entreprendre quelque chose par nous-mêmes? Devons-nous nous croiser les bras, sans aucune confiance en nous-mêmes, et dire: "Décidez, si vous voulez exécuter votre résolution et quand il vous plaît de le faire;" nous ne pouvons, nous ne voulons rien décider étant incapables du moindre effort pour occuper les provinces qu'on nous donne. Nous persistons donc dans notre politique, ne pouvant attribuer à notre pays une telle impuissance. Je suppose que l'Europe veut exécuter sa décision en conseillant, en exhortant la Turquie à céder. Mais derrière la Turquie officielle, il en est une autre; elle dit: "Je ne cède pas." Voulez-vous donc que, dans cette éventualité, nous ne puissions pas avancer, dire aux populations Turques que l'on travaille dans le sens de la résistance: Cédez-nous le pays, installez-nous, nous sommes incapables d'occuper ce que l'on nous donne. Ainsi, si ces difficultés venaient à se présenter nous ne pourrons les surmonter qu'en restant dans la voie que nous avons suivie jusqu'ici.

Je doute que la Turquie cède aux conseils de l'Europe; je doute que l'Europe se décide à lui adresser des conseils de manière à rendre réelle la cession des provinces. Pour moi, je pense que quand la Grèce sera en état de provoquer des faits, l'Europe agira d'une manière effective: elle nous conseillera la paix ou elle conseillera à la Turquie de céder. Pour nous, la question sera résolue de manière ou d'autre, car une pareille situation ne peut se prolonger longtemps sans danger.

Depuis deux ans, le pays fait de grands sacrifices, sans trop savoir quel but il poursuit, dans l'espoir, que quelque éventualité peut le pousser à une action quelconque. Et maintenant qu'il a pour lui une décision de l'Europe entière, et, derrière lui, l'Europe, c'est-à-dire la mission d'exécuter la décision de l'Europe, doit-il s'arrêter, se laisser intimider, renoncer à suivre la même politique quand il a la certitude que la question ayant pris une existence Européenne recevra une solution Européenne?

Telle est notre manière de voir, la seul avec laquelle nous acceptons de continuer à gouverner le pays. Si la Chambre, la nation pensaient autrement, nous sommes prêts à quitter le pouvoir sans aucun regret. Je vois M. Zokhio faisant les mêmes gestes ironiques qu'à la dernière session.

M. Zokhio.—Malheureusement, j'avais raison.

M. Commoundouros.—Malheureusement, s'il avait raison comme opposant, il a suivi la même politique comme Ministre. La plupart des commandes ont été faites sous le Ministère Déligeorges, dont faisait partie M. Zokhio. Ce qu'il raille comme opposant, il n'aurait pas dû le faire étant Ministre.

Partant de ces principes et de ces idées, nous venons vous demander des hommes et de l'argent. C'est notre politique, vous êtes libre d'en adopter une autre. Ne vous troublez pas, Messieurs, les gouvernants, ceux qui ont la prétention de gouverner le pays doivent dire clairement ce qu'ils veulent et ce qu'ils ne veulent pas. Pourquoi vous déguiser la vérité, vous tromper?

Nos convictions, nos idées, et nous sommes inébranlables sur ce point, les renseignements que nous sommes en position d'avoir nous confirment dans l'opinion que cette politique est avantageuse au pays. Nous vous demandons les moyens de la continuer dans l'espoir que jusqu'à la fin de l'année la question entrera dans une voie décisive.

[La séance est suspendue pour cinq minutes.]

Nous espérons, Messieurs, que la question extérieure sera bientôt résolue, que l'année prochaine, nous entrerons dans une voie normale, avec un budget régulier, que l'année prochaine sera une année de paix. Par conséquent, le budget que nous vous soumettons est l'image de notre politique, représente nos idées. Ce budget suffit aux besoins de 1879; il nous faut 13 millions pour entretenir 18,000 hommes sous les drapeaux. Nous croyons indispensable de rester armés jusqu'alors. Vous voyez que je m'exprime clairement, que je tiens à ne vous rien cacher. Nous devons donc rester armés; nous y parviendrons en renvoyant les réservistes dans leurs foyers, et en appelant les autres dans la réserve, qui doivent, selon la loi, être exercés dans leurs provinces respectives. Nous pourrons ainsi disposer de tous les bras de la réserve, et être toujours prêts.

M. le Ministre des Finances vous soumettra un projet de loi qui pourvoit aux besoins de l'armée jusqu'à la fin de l'année. Des doutes ayant été émis je vais donner quelques explications sur ce sujet.

M. S. Petimezas.—Le crédit de 12 millions est demandé pour cette année.

M. le Président du Conseil.—Pour 1879. Si nous nous trouvons dans la nécessité d'agir il faudra, d'après nos calculs, encore 35 millions. (Sensation.) Si 1879 n'est pas une année de paix; si, dans quelque occasion que ce soit, la Grèce ne veut renier son "moi;" si elle ne veut avouer qu'elle n'a aucune confiance en elle-même, qu'elle ne veut pas compter sur elle-même, qu'elle entend revenir sur ses pas, et rester indifférente devant les événements qui la provoquent à l'action, le budget que nous vous soumettons suffit à tous nos besoins. Mais si la Grèce doit agir, si elle doit mettre au moins 40,000 hommes sur le pied de guerre, pour mettre cette armée en mouvement, pour l'entretenir, suffire à ses besoins, elle doit s'imposer de nouveaux sacrifices, et, d'après nos calculs, ces sacrifices s'élèvent à 35 millions.

Je sais, Messieurs, que cette thèse n'est pas agréable; elle l'est moins encore si la Grèce n'a pas beaucoup changé depuis 1821. Il y a dans la vie des nations des époques, et l'histoire de la Grèce ancienne et moderne en offre de nombreux exemples, pendant lesquelles, le sentiment, et l'enthousiasme, et la résolution de la nation ne sont qu'abnégation et sacrifices; époques où la nation poussée vers la grandeur, la gloire, ne fait aucun calcul, ne recule devant rien. Rappelez-vous les temps de Thémistocle. A d'autres époques, les nations veulent le bien-être, les jouissances matérielles. Rappelez-vous l'époque de Démétrius de Phalère. Des temps semblables aux premiers, nous les avons vus en 1821. En 1821 la nation ne calculait pas les sacrifices; mais elle arriva au résultat qu'elle poursuivait. Je ne pense pas que 1878 soit différent de 1821 au point de ressembler à l'époque de Démétrius de Phalère, je ne le crois pas. Aussi je viens à vous avec confiance. Vous pouvez dire: Nous voulons la paix, le progrès matériel, le reste nous est indifférent. Si telle était, Messieurs, votre politique, vous devriez la proclamer d'une manière claire et formelle, et prendre une résolution en conséquence. Quant à nous, nous sommes prêts à quitter le pouvoir.

No. 729.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 31.)

(No. 508.)
My Lord,

Athens, October 22, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report the arrival at Piræus, a few days since, of eighty Circassian families, numbering some 250 persons, sent by Turkey from Smyrna to Salonica. These people left the day following, to continue their journey, but being wrecked afterwards on Greek coast were unable to proceed.

I have communicated the above to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 730.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 31.)

(No. 509.)
My Lord,

Athens, October 23, 1878.

THE public feeling which prevailed in Greece, and especially in Athens, a little time back, in regard to the frontier question, and which threatened to disturb the peace between Greece and Turkey, has within the last fortnight become sensibly modified, and greater calmness and a disposition to await patiently the result of the mediation of the Powers with the Sublime Porte is apparent.

Public attention has been diverted by the debates in the Chamber of Deputies, and the impression has got abroad that the Sultan is disposed to make some concessions, whereas, until lately, it was thought he had positively refused to listen to the recommendation of the Congress as regards Greece.

It is probable that the Government will be disposed to make concessions in regard to the amount of troops to be kept under arms, as proposed by the Opposition in the Chamber, in order to keep their places, at least until the Municipal Elections, which take place this autumn, have taken place.

It is of great importance to whatever party may be in power that these elections, which are made for a period of three years, should take place during their tenure of

office, as the Ministry has means of exercising great influence upon them, and the municipal authorities, in their turn, influence the elections for the Chamber of Deputies, which will take place next year.

The majority of three votes obtained by the Government the other day is so slender that they are not likely to propose any measure likely to decrease it, and thus oblige them to resign office, and, although they profess their willingness to do so if their policy is disapproved, it is supposed that they are quite prepared to sacrifice something in order to retain it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 731.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 31.)

(No. 887.)
My Lord,

St. Petersburgh, October 24, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt by Messenger Robbins on the 20th instant of your Lordship's despatch No. 531 of the 9th October, and in conformity with the instruction therein contained I have addressed, in a semi-official form, a letter to M. de Giers, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, bringing under his Excellency's notice the statement reported to have been made by General Scobeleff of the intention of the Russian Government to maintain an army of 45,000 men to the south of the Balkans during the winter in addition to a force of 100,000 men in the Principality of Bulgaria, and reminding his Excellency that this statement was in direct contradiction with Article XXII of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 731.

Lord A. Loftus to M. de Giers.

M. le Conseiller Privé Actuel,

St Petersburgh, October 14/26, 1878.

IT has been reported to Her Majesty's Government that General Scobeleff, commanding the Russian forces in Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia, lately stated in the course of conversation in public and in the presence of Her Majesty's Assistant Commissioner for the organization of Eastern Roumelia, "that the Imperial Government intended to maintain an army of 45,000 men to the south of the Balkans during the winter, in addition to a force of over 100,000 men in the Principality of Bulgaria."

It appears that this was not the only occasion on which General Scobeleff has used similar language, and I am consequently instructed by the Marquis of Salisbury to bring unofficially this statement of Scobeleff under the notice of your Excellency, who cannot fail to admit that it is in direct contradiction with Article XXII of the Treaty of Berlin, which stipulates that the Russian force of occupation in Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia is limited to 50,000 men.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 732.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 31.)

(No. 888.) [B.B.]
My Lord,

St. Petersburgh, October 24, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship copy of a note which I have addressed to M. de Giers in conformity with the instructions of your Lordship's despatch No. 533 of the 15th October, bringing under the notice of the Imperial Government the language used by Prince Dondoukoff Korsakoff to the Earl of Donoughmore at their interview at Philippopolis, as reported by his Lordship in his letter to Sir H. Drummond Wolff of the 21st September, 1878.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 732.

Lord A. Loftus to M. de Giers.

M. le Conseiller Privé Actuel, *St. Petersburgh, October* 24, 1878.

I AM instructed by the Marquis of Salisbury to inclose to your Excellency an extract from the Report of the Earl of Donoughmore, Her Majesty's Assistant Commissioner for the organization of Eastern Roumelia, giving a detailed account of an interview he had had with Prince Dondoukoff Korsakoff, the Imperial Russian Commissioner, and of the observations addressed to him by his Excellency.

It is unnecessary for me to express any opinion to your Excellency on the language used by Prince Dondoukoff Korsakoff, which I do not doubt will be received by the Imperial Government with feelings at least of surprise, but I cannot fail to call your Excellency's attention to the fact that these expressions of unreserved hostility to England and scorn for the Treaty of Berlin were addressed to an English diplomatist by the highest Representative of the Imperial Russian authority in the province of Eastern Roumelia.

While I do not for a moment entertain the idea that the sentiments expressed by Prince Dondoukoff Korsakoff will find favour with your Excellency, they are nevertheless of an importance which merit the attention of the Imperial Government, and are consequently deserving of being brought under your Excellency's notice.

Your Excellency cannot fail to admit that the position of a high official who has expressed the "intention of putting every obstacle in the way of the English programme, whatever it may be," and who has further described the Treaty of Berlin as a "bouffonnerie," gives to this language a serious and sinister importance.

It is well known to Her Majesty's Government that Russian officers of the highest rank in the occupying army are in the habit of expressing sentiments wholly inconsistent with an intention of faithfully carrying out the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin. But the desire for war, in which distinction may be won, is natural to men of their profession, and the operation of this motive is so generally recognized that no official value is likely to be attached to their conversation.

It is, however, otherwise with the language used by the Imperial Commissioner not only to the Earl of Donoughmore, but to other influential persons. His language might be expected to reflect the pacific sentiments of the Imperial Cabinet, and it cannot be concealed that embarrassment of a very serious kind will result from the attitude he has assumed.

The inhabitants of the province, whether Christian or Mussulman, naturally assume that sentiments of the character given vent to by Prince Dondoukoff Korsakoff are not likely to be expressed by the highest Russian authority in the country except with the acquiescence of the Russian Government, and they are thereby encouraged to refuse or delay submission to those stipulations of the Treaty which are distasteful to them.

Her Majesty's Government are interested, therefore, in bringing this circumstance to the notice of the Imperial Government, not merely to guard themselves from being held to have acquiesced in a derogatory estimate of the obligations imposed by the Treaty of Berlin, but also because the use of language such as that reported by a personage in the high position of Prince Dondoukoff Korsakoff tends to retard indefinitely the work of conciliation and peace which that instrument was designed to achieve.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 732.

Extract from a Report of Lord Donoughmore, Assistant Commissioner for the Organization of Eastern Roumelia, dated Philippopolis, September 21, 1878.

YESTERDAY afternoon I received a long visit from Prince Dondoukoff Korsakoff, the Imperial Russian Commissioner.

He was afterwards joined by Colonel Alexander Schepeleff, late Governor of the town, and now Commissioner on the part of the Russian Imperial Government for the reorganization of Eastern Roumelia.

The following is an account of my interview with these gentlemen:—

The Prince, who arrived alone, asked if I was here officially. I said, Yes, under instructions from my colleague. He replied he had no doubt I was instructed, but that it was impossible that any of the Commissioners should have a real official position before the Commission had sat, and that he desired to speak to me familiarly as a "private gentleman."

He began by saying that, as far as he was able, he should put every obstacle in his power against the carrying out of the English programme, whatever it might be. There was no use disguising the fact; we were face to face as enemies, and he and his countrymen were, as it were, upon their trial. He said there would be disagreements, and very serious disagreements at and from the very first sittings of the Commission. He ridiculed the Treaty of Berlin, the Rhodope Commission, the Eastern Roumelia Commission, and everything that had been done at or since the Congress, by the titles of "Offenbach-" isms, "comédies, bouffonnades, bouffonneries," and such-like expressions.

With regard to the meeting of the Commission at Philippopolis, the Prince said he thought it would be one of the first questions raised, and though he admitted that reasons might be advanced in favour of the Commission sitting here, he stated his views in favour of the locality being Constantinople.

If there had not been a Provisional Government already formed here he could understand that the necessity for the meeting of the Commission at Philippopolis might be defended; but he stated he was prepared to hand over his system in its entirety, as far as administrative and judicial matters were concerned. The manner in which Governors of sandjaks and cazas had been appointed; the instructions to those officers; the mode of enrolment of the police, and all the details of the force, with the instructions to its officers; the regulations as to the administration of justice; in fact, the details of the entire judicial and administrative system were now in the press, and he would hand them to the Commission when it took over the regulation of the province.

At about this time Colonel Schepeleff arrived, and joined in the conversation.

Both gentlemen attempted to impress upon me that the existing Constitution being thus placed in the hands of the Commission, it could perfectly well discuss it at a distance, and could send any agents it pleased to glean information in the districts. The General added an expression of opinion as to the treatment such messengers would probably receive, which, if exact, would augur ill for their personal safety.

Prince Dondoukoff also alluded to the existence of the militia, treating it as having been enrolled according to the principles laid down in the Treaty of Berlin, but would only admit the existence of nine "legions" of 1,000 men each. He pointed out what would occur when, according to the Treaty, the officers to be nominated by the Sultan were appointed to this corps. He expressed his certain conviction that the Russian officers would break their swords, and that the Bulgarian soldiers would murder (his expression was "mettront une baïonnette dans le ventre") the Turkish or Greek officers sent to them. There would then be a corps without officers or petty officers, composed of "canaille," who would go to the hills, guns and all, and become nothing better than a gang of bandits.

He stated that the only means he could think of for preserving order in the corps for a time was during the occupation to incorporate it with the Russian army. This step would at least secure order for nine months or a year; but, he added, "et puis après notre départ, le déluge."

He further drew my attention to the fact that after the retirement of the great bulk of the Russian army, and his own departure from the province on the appointment of a Turkish Governor-General, it would be perfectly vain to attempt to maintain order in the country. He himself would be at Sofia, or perhaps farther off. It would be impossible to communicate with him with sufficient rapidity, and, even if it were, he desired to know from whom the orders would come. He stated the movement of his troops to be a matter not to be regulated by Ambassadors or Commissioners, but by Imperial orders alone.

The Prince further stated his determination not to surrender any part, however small, of the control of the finances of the province, and remarked at the same time in a sarcastic tone that he did not understand how the Administration was to be carried on by the Commission unless it had the control of the finances. He said the occupying army was to be supported at the expense of the occupied country; that the finances were requisite for this purpose, and that therefore he would not surrender them, but that there was a small surplus which he would hand over to the Commissioners to do what they liked with. He said the only way he saw out of the difficulty was for the

Committee to adopt the Constitution he had instituted, and to revise it if necessary, leaving the arrangements for the government of the province, which now exist *in statu quo*, until such revision is completed. These arrangements were, he stated, based upon the laws for the vilayets, with some emendations, such as the abolition of dîme farming in this province, and were therefore conformable to the plan laid down by the Treaty of Berlin. He stated that he had not abolished the dîme farming at Adrianople, because the locality was Turkish, and added that the differences between the English and his countrymen was that we were the friends of the "canaille Turque," while they were the supporters of the "canaille Bulgare."

Under any circumstances, he did not think matters could remain quiet for more than a few months, and that things must culminate in another Congress. From the way he said it he meant another war.

On his departure, while assuring me of his personal regard, the Prince reiterated his determination to create obstacles, and again described the circumstances and the Treaty that had led to the appointment of the Commission as a farce.

I did not consider it part of my duty to reply in any way to any of the Prince's arguments or assertions, or to express either assent or dissent with them.

Colonel Schepeleff remained for some moments after the General's departure. He seemed to consider it a matter of doubt whether the Porte would have the right to nominate a Commissioner at all. He was anxious for information as to the manner in which the business of the Commission was to be conducted, and whether the recording was to be by Protocol or *compte-rendu*, or how. I was unable to give him any information upon these subjects.

No. 733.

Mr. Dering to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 31.)

(No. 595.)

My Lord, *Berlin, October* 29, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship, in original and translation, a paragraph which appeared in this morning's "Tribune," and which states that the appreciations it sets forth come from a reliable source.

Your Lordship will see from the inclosed remarks that one-sided views are attributed to Her Majesty's Government with regard to the steps she is said to be taking with a view to ensure the carrying out of the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin, and that it is stated that the German Government will now as before stand up for the execution of the above Treaty, but are unwilling to join in such one-sided representations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY NEVILL DERING

Inclosure in No. 733.

Extract from the "Tribune" of October 29, 1878.

(Translation.)

A VERY reliable correspondent writes to us:—

"In diplomatic circles great interest is shown at the increased exertions of England in favour of carrying out the provisions of the Berlin Treaty. The English Cabinet is directing its exertions towards coming to an understanding with France, Austria, and Italy for a common object. It is, however, worthy of remark that similar exertions on the part of the German Government, upon which the leadership of the Berlin Congress had conferred the position of the leading Power, had collapsed some four weeks ago by the opposition of England.

"It was true that at that period it was a question of exercising pressure upon the Porte, whilst the present exertions of England appear to be directed against Russia. According to our information the German Government will now, as before, stand up for the carrying out of the Berlin Treaty, but will not give its adherence to a one-sided representation on this respect."

No. 734.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received October* 31.)

(Confidential.)

My Lord, *Admiralty, October* 30, 1878.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs a copy of a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir G. Phipps Hornby, dated the 23rd October, No. 1,303, reporting having called in at Gallipoli, on his way to Cyprus, and the state of affairs at that place.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 734.

Vice-Admiral Sir G. Hornby to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *"Helicon," at Chanak, October* 23, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that I shifted my flag to the "Helicon" yesterday, at sunset, and left Artaki at three o'clock this morning for Syra and Cyprus.

2. I called at Gallipoli on passing, and saw Captain Heneage, the Senior Naval Officer, and Mr. Odoni, Her Majesty's Vice-Consul, from whom I learned that the Russians have retained their positions north of Malgara and Keshan; otherwise they had no information of interest or importance to communicate to me.

3. I have left Rear-Admiral Sir Edmund Commerell at Artaki, to conduct the duties of the squadron during my absence, and have instructed him to proceed immediately to Gallipoli should he receive any report from the Senior Officer there of any facts connected with Bulair lines or the neighbourhood of Gallipoli generally, which are of a surprising character, and Captain Heneage has been directed to report any such circumstance to their Lordships and to me immediately.

4. Before deciding to proceed to Cyprus to meet the First Lord of the Admiralty I communicated by telegraph with Her Majesty's Ambassador, who informed me that he saw no reason whatever against my doing so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. PHIPPS HORNBY.

No. 735.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 31.)

(No. 51.)

(Telegraphic.)

Paris, October 30, 1878.

IN answer to your telegram of last night, French Minister for Foreign Affairs, though not absolutely pledged, has hitherto adhered unalterably to his determination not to recognize Roumanian independence until Constituent Assembly has passed the first reading of the Bill establishing religious equality, and, according to his information, this might take place next January.

He does not altogether refuse to reconsider question if your Lordship presses him to do so, but he believes German Government to be strongly opposed to recognizing before religious equality is completely established, and he would wish England, France, and Germany to act together in the matter.

No. 736.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 31.)

(Telegraphic.)

Bucharest, October 30, 1878.

KING of Italy has appointed his former Agent at Bucharest as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at this Court, thus recognizing the independence of Roumania.

No. 737.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 31.)

Belgrade, October 30, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

PRINCE MILAN, with the Princess and the whole of his household, will shortly proceed to Nisch, where it is stated that they will spend the winter. They will be followed by the Government, as the Skuptchina, which meets next month, is to be held there. There are indications from which might be inferred that some plan exists of getting Prince Milan named, under Russian auspices, Prince of Bulgaria, and the union of the two Principalities simultaneously proclaimed by the Servian and Bulgarian Assemblies.

I mention the above under all possible reserve; but lately there have been unmistakable signs that Servia is actively engaged in some secret plot, and more than ever under Russian influence.

No. 738.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 31.)

Bucharest, October 31, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

IT becomes every day clearer that if Russia should carry out her intention of acquiring a right of military passage without limit of time through the Dobrudscha, she will thus obtain paramount influence over the destinies of Roumania. Majority of Ministers rely on moral support and advice of friendly Powers to enable them to secure that acquisition without having to submit to such onerous terms.

No. 739.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1335.)

Foreign Office, October 31, 1878.

Sir,

MR. KIRBY GREEN, Her Majesty's Consul at Scutari, has reported that orders have been issued by the Turkish authorities for the erection of a new hospital at Podgoritza, and that a number of huts are also being built as winter quarters for the troops at that place.

It appears that these preparations are accepted by the Albanians as an assurance that the Turkish Government has no intention of speedily evacuating Podgoritza, and I request that your Excellency will bring to the notice of the Porte the nature of the above rumours which have reached Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 740.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1337.)

Foreign Office, October 31, 1878.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT herewith a copy of a letter, accompanied by a Memorial, which I have received from the Aborigines Protection and Anti-Slavery Societies relative to the condition of the children of Christian parents in the Turkish provinces, thousands of whom are said to have been kidnapped, or to be wandering about the country in a homeless condition.*

A copy of my reply is also inclosed for your Excellency's information.†

I request that you will have the goodness to cause inquiry to be made into the circumstances alleged in this Memorial, and to report the result to this Department.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

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* No 687.

† No. 744.

No. 741.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 564.)

Foreign Office, October 31, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE to state to your Excellency that at an interview I had with Count Beust, he asked me what course Her Majesty's Government proposed to take as to the demand of Servia that Prince Milan should assume the title of Royal Highness. I said in reply to his Excellency that Her Majesty's Government were not in a position to be materially affected by the decision which this question might receive, and would be disposed to conform their course in the matter to that of Austria. His Excellency then stated that the disposition of his Government was to refuse the title.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 742.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 724)

Foreign Office, October 31, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 851 of the 25th instant inclosing a copy of a note from the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, in which he expresses the views of his Government with regard to the administration of Eastern Roumelia pending the final organization of the province.

In reply I have to request your Excellency to inform M. Waddington that Her Majesty's Government are willing to concur in his views, although they would have preferred to see the civil administration vested without delay in some other authority than that which exercises the military occupation.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 743.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul Reade.

(No. 2.) [B.B.]

Foreign Office, October 31, 1878.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your information, a copy of a note which has been addressed to Sir H. Layard by Safvet Pasha, expressing the warm acknowledgments of the Sublime Porte for the services you have rendered to the Turkish refugees.*

I have much pleasure in conveying to you the approval of Her Majesty's Government of your proceedings generally under the very difficult circumstances with which you have had to contend at Rustchuk, and the lively satisfaction with which they have received this testimony of the Ottoman Government to the services you have rendered to the unfortunate victims of the late war.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 744.

Sir J. Pauncefote to Mr. Chesson.

Foreign Office, October 31, 1878.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of the Memorial from the Aborigines Protection and Anti-Slavery Society which accompanied your letter of the 26th instant.

In reply I am to state to you that no information has reached Her Majesty's Government justifying the belief that Bulgarian children are being kept in a state of slavery in Turkish houses.

But his Lordship desires me to say that a copy of the above-named Memorial

* Inclosure in No. 589.

shall be forwarded to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, who will be instructed to inquire into the matter and furnish him with a report thereon.

I am, &c.

(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 745.

Sir J. Pauncefote to Mr. Lingen.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 31, 1878.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit to you, to be laid before the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, a copy of a despatch which has been received from Major Wilson, the British Commissioner appointed for the demarcation of the Servian frontier.*

Major Wilson suggests that the expenses of transport and house accommodation for the British section of the Commission might properly be borne by Her Majesty's Government, and should not fall to the charge of the Servian Government.

I am to request that in laying this letter before the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury you will move them to favour Lord Salisbury at their early convenience with their opinion as to the question raised by Major Wilson.

I am, &c.

(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

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* No. 571.